

For those who are far from being a master griller, here are some quick tips to make your first barbecue a success.

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Gone is the SARS season, here comes the spring auction season. **Page 10**



"It is not an interest, this is my life," says Yu Jun, of his search for the Chinese Bigfoot. **Page 9**



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Great News for Great Wall

By Shan Jinliang

The passing of a new regulation in Beijing marks an important step in ensuring the protection of one of this country's most important icons, the Great Wall of China.

The Great Wall, the world's largest cultural relic, has suffered enormous damage over the past decade, most of it caused by the relentless encroachment of civilization.

At many scenic spots, telecom and television signal receiving stations are an ever present reminder of modern life, the ground is littered with paper, bottles and other garbage, and if you look closely at the wall itself, the names of visitors from China and all over the world can be seen carved into the bluestone bricks.

Elsewhere along the wild wall, farmers have removed bricks to use as building materials and use the guard towers as toilets.

A recent survey by the China Great Wall Society found that one third of the wall has been wholly demolished, and only one third remains structurally intact.

Last year, a company erected a billboard at the foot of the Great Wall at Mutianyu. The local cultural relics department asked the company to remove it, saying it spoiled the landscape of the wall, but the company refused, saying the billboard did not contravene any law.

"From 2000, we found the urgency to issue a rule for the wall's protection in Beijing," said Sun Ling, director of the Legal Division of the Beijing Bureau of Cultural Relics, "and in 2001, the bureau raised a request to issue a local regulation for the protection of the Beijing section of the Great Wall. After two years of research, discussion and amendment, the regulation was finally handed to the city parliament in late 2002. It was approved on June 13 and will go into effect on August 1."

The regulation clarifies for the first time the scope of the wall's protection zone, which includes the main body of the wall, structures along the wall and surrounding buffer zone.

Sun pointed out, however, that it is not practical to immediately remove all unauthorized buildings within the zone, as local farmers rely on the wall to make a living by offering tourists food and accommodation. It will require several steps, she said.

The management department of the Badaling Great Wall allocated around 200 million yuan for the removal of all parking lots and buildings near the wall last August, and a new development plan for the region is currently being drawn up.

"Beijing has the best well preserved sections of the Great Wall in China," said Sun Ling, "the new regulation will be helpful in the eventual drafting of a national law."

This March, Shan Jixiang, director of the State Bureau of Cultural Relics suggested a national project and a state-level law to protect the Great Wall, which passes through eight provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

EDITOR: LI XIN
DESIGNER: LI SHI



When the new regulation is fully implemented, no powerlines should mar the Great Wall scenery of Beijing Municipality.

Photos provided by William Lindesay

Wall Campaigner Welcomes Regulation

By Shan Jinliang

"I was so encouraged at the news," said William Lindesay, founder of the International Friends of the Great Wall, "It was such a good start."

The "good start" Lindesay was referring to, in an interview Monday with *Beijing Today*, is the Beijing Municipality Great Wall Preservation Management Regulation, China's first provincial level regulation on the protection of the wall.

has been visiting the wall regularly, picking up garbage, erecting notices urging visitors to take care of the wall and promote his eight-point countryside code for protecting the wall.

It was in April 1998 that Lindesay led the first Great Wall cleanup, with around 100 participants from 38 countries. The event received widespread coverage in the Chinese media.

A question from a *China Youth Daily* reporter on that occasion, "Is it illegal to litter the wall?" prompted him to find out whether or not any laws specifically protected the wall.

He checked with the State Bureau of Cultural Relics, and found that the State Law on Cultural Relics did not actually mention the Great Wall.

"With no specifically-promulgated laws to protect the world's largest single cultural relic," Lindesay wrote on the society's website, "I foresaw that developers from the city, as well as local farmers and officials, were poised to embark on a free-for-all by ex-

ploiting the hitherto inaccessible and unknown sections of the ancient defenses, which have been brought within the recent reach of millions by the rise in private-car ownership in Beijing."

During his numerous trips to the wall, he found local people had removed bricks and stones to build houses and their own, not so "great" walls. Much of what re-



William Lindesay brings back another bag of litter from the wall.

mained was covered with graffiti and littered with garbage. Meanwhile more and more new structures could be found encroaching on the wall.

Last July, Lindesay and his colleagues made a video detailing some of the illegal buildings erected by farmers around the Huanghuacheng section of the Great Wall, and the ensuing local and national news reports helped push forward debate on protection of the wall. During the same month, the society signed a memo with Beijing Municipal Bureau of Cultural Relics as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Beijing office.

"Although Lindesay did not participate in formulating the new regulation," said Sun Ling, the bureau's Legal Division director on Tuesday, "his persistent preservation work accelerated the process."

Expressing his delight at the new regulation, Lindesay highlighted the provision for a 500-meter buffer zone and 500-to-

The Great Wall was included on the World Cultural Heritage List in 1987. The 629-kilometer Beijing section had already been listed as a city-level cultural relic protected site in 1984.

China passed the State Law on Cultural Relics in 1982 and Beijing issued its Cultural Relics Protection Regulation in 1987. However neither specifically refer to the Great Wall.

The US-based World Monuments Fund in 2002 included the Great Wall on its list of the world's 100 most endangered sites.

3,000-meter partial buffer zone protecting the wall from development, comparing it with the 200-meter buffer zone that protects Hadrian's Wall in Britain.

He warned, however, that it might take some time for the regulation to be fully implemented.

"One of the urgent jobs is to educate local officials," he said, "and it is also not easy to dismantle the houses near the Great Wall. But Beijing must lead the way for other provinces."

Lei Feng Spirit Granted Copyright Protection

By Xiao Rong

In a move that has triggered more than a little debate country-wide, a photographer has been granted copyright protection for his photographs of the late soldier and revolutionary role model Lei Feng.

Seventy-two year old Zhang Jun, whose 230 photos of Lei Feng have been published all over China in the past 40 years, was granted copyright by Liaoning Copyright Bureau on June 18.

"The reason I applied for copyright over my photos is not for money, but in order to safeguard the image of Lei Feng," said Zhang in a telephone interview with *Beijing Today* Tuesday.

But Zhang has encountered unexpected criticism since he registered his photographs. Most of the censure focused on whether the

copyright of the images is in contravention of "Lei Feng spirit."

An icon of modern China since the 1960s, the name Lei Feng is synonymous with unselfishness and nobleness. Chairman Mao Zedong's dictum "Learn from Comrade Lei Feng" in 1962, following the soldier's death in a traffic accident at the age of 22, has ever since been the basis of nationwide campaigns to urge people to emulate Lei Feng spirit.

Zhang Jun says he should not be criticized for registering his works. "I just want to protect the dignity of Lei Feng spirit through legal means. Those who want to earn money by using my photos of Lei Feng should now be careful."

Most of the photos taken by Zhang Jun have been published in newspapers, maga-

zines and on the Internet without permission, sometimes for commercial profit.

"A newspaper in southern China this March published a photo in which Lei Feng, as a Young Pioneer counselor, was reading a pictorial with a female student Chen Yajuan. But the caption described Lei Feng as being 'with his lover,'" said Zhang Jun.

A series of copyright infringements, especially those he considered to have tarnished Lei Feng's image, eventually drove Zhang to formally take out copyright on his pictures.

"I don't care about those organizations that have used my photos to promote Lei Feng spirit, even though it's copyright infringement. But it's totally irresponsible if they distort the facts for profits."

Zhang Jun has been promoting Lei Feng spirit for the past 40 years, using his own sav-

ings to organize exhibitions and lectures.

Yang Bojiu, copyright administrator of Liaoning Copyright Bureau, told *Beijing Today* that by safeguarding his own copyright, Zhang would only restrict the abuse of his works.

"Lei Feng spirit is the common treasure of Chinese people and should be well protected. Those who use photos of Lei Feng for the sake of promoting Lei Feng spirit needn't ask for the author's permission, though they still must pay for them," explained Yang.

Zhang Jun expressed the hope that by taking out copyright on his photographs, he would be better able to promote Lei Feng spirit. "With the money I receive for my works, my promotion of Lei Feng spirit might get more funding and thus influence more people."

CEPA Tightens Ties Between Mainland, Hong Kong

By Xiao Rong

The Chinese central government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government last Sunday announced the signing of the Mainland/Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA).

"CEPA will greatly enhance economic cooperation and integration between the mainland and Hong Kong," said Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong SAR Antony Leung at a press conference held after the signing ceremony.

He also expressed expectations that trade and investment between the two sides would be facilitated as a result of the cooperative measures agreed to under CEPA.

This agreement covers three broad

areas, namely trade in goods, trade in services and trade and investment facilitation.

Regarding trade in goods, the mainland has agreed to impose no import tariffs, starting January 1, 2004, for 273 items for export produced in Hong Kong. By January 1, 2006, all products made in Hong Kong for export to the mainland market will be completely exempt from import tariffs.

For trade in services, 17 sectors in Hong Kong including banking, insurance, tourism and real estate services will benefit in terms of preferential market access or removal of specific restrictions in the mainland market.

"CEPA is a natural outcome of the development of economic and trade relations between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong that reflects

the increasing trend of integration between both sides," commented Song Hong, a researcher at the World Economy Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Song predicts the pact will create a win-win situation, allowing Hong Kong enterprises to focus more on marketing and design while mainland enterprises handle most of the manufacturing work. "It's a complementary division of labor," he said.

In the opinion of Zhao Zhijun, a researcher from the Economics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, enterprises based in Hong Kong will benefit more from the terms of CEPA than their counterparts in the mainland.

He said, "In the short term, investment by Hong Kong businesses in the mainland may decrease. But in the

long term, as Hong Kong enterprises benefit from CEPA and get stronger, their investment in the mainland will surely increase."

Both Song and Zhao stressed the importance of strengthening supervision of the definition of Hong Kong-based enterprises and the contents of products to prevent foreign enterprises from exploiting opportunities opened by the agreement.

Song also said he expects many more foreign enterprises, especially those eyeing the Chinese mainland market, to make Hong Kong their first stop and later expand north, as a result of CEPA.

"CEPA can act as a good example, or at the very least a test case, for the establishment of free trade zones in other areas of the world," He concluded.

Sixth High-tech Expo Set for September

By Xiao Rong

The sixth China Beijing International High-tech Expo is set to be held between September 12 to 15, making it the city's first international scientific and economic exchange activity after the end of the SARS epidemic.

Focusing on the exhibition of high-tech products, the expo will also be the venue for eight forums, six trade talks and 11 exchange activities, organizer the Beijing Sub-Council of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade announced at a press conference yesterday.

"One of the new features of the expo lies in the stress on the use of high-tech, including IT, biological and medical technology and public administration, in the fight against SARS," said Yang Liuyin, director of the Beijing Sub-Council.

The introduction of the marketing plan of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games will be another focus of the expo, with a series of exchange activities on Olympic-related commercial opportunities given high profile slots.

"This high-tech expo is aimed at creating an international expo brand that can provide abundant business opportunities and display the increasing globalization of Beijing's economic development," stressed city vice mayor Zhang Mao at the press conference.

Zhang continued that several projects related to public administration in Beijing will be added to this year's agenda, with the aim of giving investors from China and abroad opportunities to take active parts in the construction of urban public facilities.

To date, over 40 overseas delegations from more than 20 countries and regions have contacted the expo's organizing committee about taking part in the event, and the final list of participants is nearly complete.

Business Summit Moved to November

By Shan Jinliang

The 2003 China Business Summit, an annual meeting held by Swiss-based independent think tank the World Economic Forum, has been tentatively postponed to November 6 and 7, according to an announcement posted on the organization's website. The summit was originally scheduled to be held in April, but the outbreak of SARS forced its delay.

Chinese organizer the China Enterprise Federation told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that they received news of the rescheduling from the World Economic Forum a few days before, but the final dates have not been confirmed.

The summit will be held in Beijing with the theme, "China Under New Leadership: The New Dynamics of Trade and Development". Co-sponsors of the event include the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization.

It will be the fifth summit run in China by the World Economic Forum. Last year's event was held in April with the theme of "China: Enabling a New Era of Changes".

Discussion during the summit will focus on leadership transition and the impact on the national business environment, reviewing China's accession to the WTO and the ongoing transformation of key industries. Attendees will also assess progress in Western province development, how China is managing key social and environmental trends and regional and international geopolitical situations.

Registration Policy Unified for Overseas, Domestic Companies

By Shan Jinliang / Zhang Hongjin

As of Tuesday, registration procedures at the Haidian Science Park in Zhongguancun are the same for newly established domestic and overseas companies. The park is the first place in China to extend such equal status to firms regardless of their origin.

The rule change was revealed in a statement issued by the Haidian District government on Sunday and is intended to encourage the development of small and medium-sized companies in Zhongguancun, known as the center of the high-tech industry in this country.

As a result of this new rule, restrictions on the business scope of foreign companies have been lifted and domestic companies can register their capital in installments.

In the past, foreign companies that wanted to expand their range of business had to wait for a period of time for the processing and approval of their expansion applications, while some Chinese companies were kept from extending their businesses due to insufficient registered capital. The rule change paves the way for the elimination of both problems.

Haidian Science Park, the technology center of the Zhongguancun's five science parks, is home to over 9,000 high-tech enterprises, 90 percent of which are small and medium-sized companies. Over 1,600 companies in the park have received foreign investment and 20 are ranked on the Fortune Global 500 list.

Yao Ming New Face of Shanghai



By Hou Mingxin

Chinese basketball star Yao Ming has been named the "Image Ambassador of Shanghai" by that city's government, Xinhua reported last Saturday.

Yang Xiong, deputy mayor of Shanghai, announced the decision last Saturday at the opening ceremony for the Lupu Bridge, the longest steel arch bridge in the world. About 1,000 people from China and overseas celebrated the opening

by running across the bridge.

Yao, the No.1 pick in last year's National Basketball Association (NBA) draft, will serve as the city's image ambassador until June 30, 2005.

Xinhua Photo

2008 Olympics Moved Back Two Weeks

Beijing organizers on Sunday expressed welcome to the decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that the 2008 Olympic Games will be run two weeks later than originally planned.

"It is better to move the games back two weeks," Wang Wei, vice president of the Beijing Olympic Games Organizing Committee, told Xinhua. "But from our point of view it would be much better if the Games could be moved back one more week."

The 2008 Games was originally scheduled to run from July 25 to August 10, after the IOC held discussions with international federations of Olympic sports. However, Beijing had expressed concern about the heat during that period, thinking that it would not help athletes perform to their best.

The IOC executive board therefore reassessed the dates and agreed on Sunday to

reschedule the start of the Games from August 8 to 24.

The IOC's executive director for the Olympic Games Gilbert Felli said that the original dates had been set by the IOC to avoid conflicts in the world's crowded sports calendar. "It was the first time in the bidding process that we had proposed dates for the Games," said Felli. "Before that, we had just said 'OK, tell us when you would like to organize the games'."

He said that Beijing had asked the IOC to reconsider the dates when the city was still bidding for the Games. "In the bidding process, the Chinese had already said in the bidbook that the dates were not the best for them for the weather conditions," Felli added.

According to IOC executive director, "(After the dates change) the conditions will be much better in terms of heat and humidity."

Xinhua

Beijing Expends Residence Permit Policy

By Su Wei

Since this Monday, Beijing working residence permits can be given to more people, not just non-locals engaged in hi-tech industries in such areas as Zhongguancun.

According to a policy issued by the Beijing Municipal Personnel Bureau, enterprises and institutions qualified to operate independently, non-governmental non-business organizations, mass organizations and organization branches not qualified to conduct business independently and established by entities outside Beijing, can apply for working residence permits for non-local employees, as long as they are involved in Beijing's economic growth and industrial development plan.

Employees seeking permits must have fixed local residence, bachelor's

degrees or higher and at least two years of work experience or intermediate professional titles or equivalent qualification. Candidates that have made significant contributions to Beijing's economic and social development and those working in badly-needed professions are likely to be approved for permits.

Non-locals that hold this kind of permit, popularly referred to as a "Beijing green card", can enjoy the same benefits as native Beijingers.

They do not need to pay management fees when their children study at local kindergartens, primary and middle schools on a temporary basis. They can buy commercial houses built in Beijing municipality, houses built by Beijing enterprises and institutions and applicable economic housing. They

can also apply for driver's licenses and register their vehicles.

Permit holders also receive the same basic life insurance extended to all locals and medical insurance for staff working in enterprises and institutions. Moreover, the permit allows them to apply to go overseas on business trips as individuals and take part in examinations and assessments for professional technical posts.

Individuals that hold these permits for three years can become official Beijing residents as long as they are recommended by their employers and due procedures are completed.

The first group of non-Beijingers to benefit from the more open application requirements will get their permits within a few weeks," said Li Xia of the bureau's information office.

Philips Sued over Patent Infringement

By Shan Jinliang/Zhang Yanli

International light bulb manufacturer Philips Lighting's share controlling Philips Yaming Lighting is facing a legal challenge by a tiny light company Shanghai Dais Electronics. The case is scheduled to open in the coming one or two weeks.

Shanghai Dais attorney Li Yunde, from Beijing Caifu Law Firm confirmed the news to *Beijing Today* yesterday after it was first reported by *Beijing Youth Daily* on Thursday, but

Li refused to give any more details.

Philips was also of the two instigators of the anti-dumping charges by the European Union against 10 Chinese light bulb companies in October 2002, but withdrew from the case two months later.

According to the report, Li said that Philips Yaming infringed on a practical patent with two of its energy-saving bulbs. After learning the exact productivity of the two lamps by Philips Yaming Lighting, Dais raised the compensation

claim from half a million yuan to 15 million yuan when it sued Philips Yaming Lighting at the Shanghai No. 2 Intermediate Court late last year.

In the interview with *Beijing Youth Daily*, Philips Electronics China said the plaintiff only handed a 10-year-old patent record to the court, and it has forwarded evidence to prove the invalidity of the patent. Philips' request to declare the patent invalid was rejected. At the same time, Philips Yaming raised another request to the State Intellectual Property Bureau to declare Dais's patent rights invalid.

Beijing Youth Daily pointed out Philips Yaming might be the second defendant in the lawsuit. Evidence by the plaintiff shows that Philips Yaming authorized China National Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Corporation to produce and export the Philips branded bulbs, but the corporation then entrusted Hanzhou Huafei to manufacture the products.



Finance Street Lures Overseas Business

By Shan Jinliang

As the intended center for China's finance industry, Beijing's Finance Street at Fuxingmen currently hosts only a handful of overseas financial companies.

The municipal government has expressed the hope that the establishment of a new Service Center on June 19 will bring a change of fortune to the street.

Finance Street, together with Zhongguancun Science Park and the new Central Business District are the only three officially prescribed commercial zones since early 1990s, and Finance Street is also the only commercial zone that is designed and constructed by one state-owned real estate developer, Beijing Finance Street Holdings Corporation.

Beijing Municipal Development and Planning Committee approved the plan to establish the street in July 1992. One year later, the State Council approved the establishment of a state financial administrative center to host the state bank headquarters and headquarters of non-banking financial institutions.

A brochure provided by the company shows it provides a fourth-generation office apartment, a bar street, a cultural and arts center, bankers' club and a traditional Chinese style leisure center

with rockery and springs. General manager Liu Shichun told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday, "It will be hard to have such a good environment in downtown city like Finance Street."

The good environment mentioned by Liu is much more than the natural environment and office conditions, and he said, "It is rare to have such a large number of state bank headquarters and finance centers in Beijing, and they could be the potential business partners for companies who run business here."

Over 500 securities, insurance and trust companies began to run business including the People's Bank of China, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, Bank of China and China Construction Bank as well as state owned companies as China Mobile and China International Travel Service, according to the brochure.

However, foreign banking companies have shown little interest in the area to date, though the holding company had vowed to attract foreign companies from one or two years ago, and two of the three representative offices of overseas banks, East-Asian Finance Holding Company and Canadian Scotiabank even moved off late last year. Official statistics by the holding company show that there are

only three overseas financial organizations at International Enterprise Plaza, the street's only apartment building for foreign companies.

In contrast, the Jianguomen area of the CBD has been a major attraction in Beijing representative offices and branches of overseas banks such as Bank One, CitiBank and HSBC, and apart from Beijing St. Regis Hotel, Sci-tech Plaza and Chang'an Theater, the State Customs building is the hottest office building for them as it is much convenient to transact customs there.

A chief representative who requested anonymity from a foreign bank's Beijing office told *Beijing Today* that two reasons can be given to the street's failure to attract foreign banks. "The foreign banks' representative offices in Beijing first resided at Beijing's high-grade hotels from the early 1980s, which are mostly in the east part of the city, and a few had bought the land there and would be reluctant to move unless they could find a business zone with absorbing preferential policies."

He raised an example that Zhongguancun could host over 20 Fortune Global 500 companies just because the city government offers tax and the land rent preferential policies. "People are money driven," he added.

The representative said that the lack of service sense is also to be attributed and even the parking seats are far from able to meet the needs though they have built new plots this March. He added foreign representative offices could not accelerate their process for approval even if they are living close to the securities and insurance regulatory bodies.

UK GAB Robins Beijing Representative Office chief representative Lily Li told *Beijing Today* they received no preferential policies from the government and they often have to solve business-related problems themselves, and had no idea about the Service Center to date.

Beijing Finance Street Holdings brand promotion office manager Shen Hongchang confirmed to *Beijing Today* there are no specific preferential policies for companies in the region, but he said the local Xicheng District government is considering on the preferential policies, the service center is to provide one-stop agency service for the new companies' registration and tax payment. It will also help to handle problems related to child education, food delivery, entertainment and shopping.

Fengtai Competes with Asian Games Village Auto Zone

By Tony Shaw

Following the launch of the Fengtai Advanced Business Park, aimed at attracting top international high-tech companies, the Fengtai District government has unveiled plans for the Beijing International Automobile Exposition Center.

Covering an area of 57 hectares around the South West Fourth Ring Road, the center, which is scheduled for completion in 2006, will be built into a headquarters base for international and domestic automobile companies.

A spokesperson for the district government said at a press conference that it was expected the Expo Center and the neighboring high-tech industry center would complement each other in function and resources sharing, and so enhance the business environment in the region.

A media analyst from Beijing Television Station surnamed Shi said on Tuesday after the conference

that the new center in Fengtai might eventually pose a challenge to the traditional auto industry center in the Asian Games Village region of Chaoyang District.

The center's construction office director Fan Jie told *Beijing Today* Tuesday that 4 billion and 800 million yuan respectively will be invested in the center and a new automobile museum within the center. Fan said the bulk of the finance will be raised from the publicly, while government assistance will only be extended in terms of loan offers and preferential policies.

Beijing Jeep and Beijing Hyundai have reportedly already expressed interest in investing in the project, according to sources close to the office.

Five design plan bids from companies in the US, Germany, Canada, Japan and China for the center and the Beijing Automobile Museum, were officially unveiled at the Beijing International Convention Center on Tuesday.

Other key components of the center include an Auto Brand Gallery, an extension of the museum, which will display top international automobile brands; an Auto Sales Gallery; Auto Plaza, which will house international and domestic auto companies, research and development centers and manufacturers' representatives and an Auto Information Center.



Shanghai Volkswagen's five new Polo models went on sale nationally from June 26. The cars, with 1.4-liter and 1.6-liter engines, will be priced between 130,900 and 161,900 yuan.

Photos by Photocome

Private Publishers Welcome Foreign Capital

By Xiao Rong

Guangdong Dayin Cultural Development signed an agreement on publishing and e-commerce investment cooperation with US-based Function Group last Saturday.

The move follows the opening of China's distribution market of the publishing industry to foreign capital this May.

The two sides will jointly develop in the fields of book publishing, media and e-commerce. The initial investment will be focused on publishing books on English language, finance and business management, as well as on the film and TV program production.

Function Group attributed their choice of Dayin as a partner to the market potential of the private publishing enterprise.

China's book distribution market is dominated by Xinhua Bookstore, the oldest state-owned distribution organization. Around 30 percent of the market is held by private publishing enterprises.

"Financing has been one of the key problems facing all the private publishing enterprises, so it's necessary for us to cooperate first with foreign capital to ensure sustainable development," said Dayin president Zhang Qingshui at a press conference following the signing of the agreement.

Industry analysts say the introduction of foreign capital into China's book distribution market will revitalize the industry and set the stage for more such cooperative ventures.

AMD Joins Challenge to Intel

Notebook computers using AMD Athlon XP-M central processing units (CPU) are to go on the market later this month, a move likely to increase competition on China's market dominated by Intel processors.

The world's second largest CPU giant, AMD, and Tsinghua Unisplendour Corporation Limited and Amoi Electronics, two local notebook computer manufacturers, said on Monday the move represented an all-out bid by AMD to expand its market presence on the Chinese market.

Unlike Intel, which controls the lion's share of the CPU market in China due to its long presence and aggressive television publicity, AMD only entered the Chinese market recently and has relatively low market recognition.

Guan Yanhui, general manager of the Information Technology department of Amoi, said AMD had chosen to expand its presence on the Chinese market at a time when the market demand for notebook computers was growing rapidly.

A total of 805,000 notebook computers were sold on the Chinese market in 2002, up 39.7 percent year on year, and it is estimated by some market research organizations that demand will grow by about 50 percent a year in the next two or three years. (Xinhua)

TOM Moves into Mainland TV Market

By Shan Jinliang

Hong Kong-based Tom Group made its first foray into China's mainland TV market on Wednesday with the purchase of a 64 percent equity share in China Entertainment TV (CETV) from Turner Broadcasting System Asia Pacific, a subsidiary of AOL Time Warner.

The purchase, which concluded four months of negotiations, was completed after TOM failed to hold its controlling stake in Asia Television and Phoenix TV last year. The acquisition marks a further diversification in the Chinese mainland's media industry by Tom's owner, Hong Kong mogul Li Ka-shing. Tom invested in the Beijing-based Sanlian Bookstore in September 2002.

In the press release on Wednesday, Tom CEO Wang Sin commented that the deal "provides us with a valuable foothold in the huge but tightly regulated China television market." The company's shares gained 4.26 percent to close at HK \$2.45 on Wednesday.

Turner Broadcasting will continue to hold the remaining 36 percent stake in the television station. Under the deal, Tom will pay HK \$2.53 per share for the approximately 21 million new TOM shares.

CETV was the first foreign TV channel to be granted permission to air programs in China through a reciprocal carriage agreement with China Central Television (CCTV) in October 2001. The agreement authorized CETV to be distributed in Guangdong Province with a reach of 2.2 million households. In April 2003, CETV further extended its reach nationwide, but it was actually inaccessible in most places due to different reasons.

Time Warner controlled CETV's operation in China in 2000, but its goal of reaching all Chinese households failed after CETV posted a loss of US \$17 million in 2002. US analysts said last month AOL Time Warner wanted to sell the shares to offset its huge debt when it could foresee a profitable future soon.

Nasdaq Europe to Shut Down

June 27 (The Daily Deal) - The Nasdaq Stock Market Inc.'s grand strategy to go global came to a screeching halt as shareholders agreed to close the fledgling Nasdaq Europe exchange and discontinue operations by the end of the year.

At an extraordinary meeting in Brussels on June 26, its shareholders voted in a near-unanimous decision to close the exchange. As a result of this and other changes, Nasdaq said it will eliminate about 80 positions. The exchange still needs approval from Belgian regulators before shutting down and finding another market for its remaining listings.

The announcement marks the second closure of an overseas bourse set up by Nasdaq. Last year, Nasdaq Japan shut down its money-losing joint venture with Softbank.

Nasdaq Europe was created in 2001 after US Nasdaq took a 59% stake in the pan-European market Easdaq based in Brussels. But it failed to lure growth stocks and compete with local bourses after the technology bubble burst.

Nasdaq Europe, which began with about 67 listings, has seen that number dwindle to its current 35 listings as trading volumes fell and companies shifted to other more liquid exchanges.

Nasdaq Europe, however, will continue to exist despite the closure. It will retain its status as an exchange, a sign

that Nasdaq will keep its options open and perhaps resurrect the market in the future.

Closing the European market is the first major move of Nasdaq's new chief executive, Robert Greifeld, who took over from Wick Simmons in early May. The appointment of Greifeld, formerly of Sungard Data Systems, was part of a

Analysts' Take:

It's like the US democracy, which is a good thing but not always suitable outside the US.

The IT bubble burst, a depressed climate settled over the global securities market, and individual options on the stock markets have been fluctuating; these are all reasons leading to Nasdaq's withdrawal from Europe and Japan.

In Europe, due to the high risks in the IT industry, the high-tech-ventures-dominated Nasdaq has driven investors away to stock markets with more traditional industry ventures and local IT boards.

Most of the small European high tech business ventures prefer to be listed in local stock markets and IT boards as well, because the costs of being listed on Nasdaq are higher.

— Zhao Xijun, professor of finance, Finance and Securities Institute, Renmin University of China

Nasdaq's withdrawal from Europe indicates the lack of dynamism in the European market. Meanwhile, Nasdaq's interest in Asia, China and India in particular, is increasing.

Since being established in 2001 under the invitation of former Premier Zhu Rongji, Nasdaq

wide-ranging management change as the market endeavors to revive its fortunes.

US Nasdaq said that after reviewing its strategic business initiatives it has decided to focus on its core US business.

It is giving its 50% stake in NQLX, the fledgling US single-stock futures exchange launched in November 2002, to its joint venture partner Euronext.liffe. on July 1.

(Donna Block)

Nasdaq is also discontinuing its Bulletin Board Exchange, which was a proposed listing platform for companies not eligible for listing on the Nasdaq SmallCap Market. In addition, Nasdaq's Liquidity Tracker, an automated order routing system giving traders direct access to some market makers, will cease operations on July 1.

Considering the huge business potential in the country, China needs a platform like Nasdaq to help start-ups. And with the globalization of the financial industry and capital flow, China will have such a platform, sooner or later.

Chinese companies already listed on Nasdaq, represented by the three leading commercial portals (sina.com, sohu.com, and netease.com) and UT Starcom, are performing well in the US. More than sixty Chinese companies have been listed on Nasdaq, either directly or by other means.

— Harry Huang, chief representative, Nasdaq China

US Launches Do-Not-Call List

Washington, June 27 (AP) - People perturbed by telemarketers can start signing up for a national do-not-call list intended to block most phone sales pitches.

Consumers can register for the free government service by visiting the website www.donotcall.gov. Telephone registration using a toll-free number - 1-888-382-1222 - is available in states west of the Mississippi River, including Minnesota and Louisiana, the Federal Trade Commission said. Nationwide registration should be available by July 7.

The national registry, an FTC project more than a year in the making, was being inaugurated Friday at a White House ceremony led by President Bush.

The list will block about 80 percent of telemarketing calls, FTC Chairman Timothy Muris said. The commission expects up to 60 million phone numbers to be registered in the first year.

"I think this has been a complaint of consumers for a very long time," Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell said on NBC's "Today."

People who sign up this summer should see a decrease in telemarketing calls after the FTC begins enforcing the do-not-call list on Oct. 1.

Registrations will have to be renewed every five years.

Beginning in September, telemarketers will have to check the list every three months to see who doesn't want to be called. Those who call listed people could be fined up to \$11,000 for each violation. Consumers would file complaints to an automated phone or online system.

Telemarketers attempt up to 104 million calls every day, according to the FCC.

The industry has said the registry will devastate their business and has sued the FTC, saying the program amounts to an unlawful restriction on free speech.

Exemptions from the list include calls from charities, pollsters and on behalf of politicians. Registered consumers also can give written permission to get calls from certain companies.

Congress authorized the FTC to collect up to \$18.1 million from telemarketers to pay the program's expenses in the first year.

(David Ho)



Keith Fotta, president and CEO of Gryphon Networks Corp. Gryphon Networks provides the 'do not call' services. As the 'do not call' list goes into effect, telemarketers are grateful for the restriction, hoping it will clean up the industry's image.

AP Photo

The economy in Afghanistan is recovering from the devastation brought by two decades of wars. Afghan President Hamid Karzai declared earlier this week the country's economy has seen a growth of 10 percent in 2002.

Two Afghans are bargaining for one of the world famous Afghan carpets at a bazaar in downtown Kabul, July 2.

Xinhua Photo

Elite's Share of Income Grows in US

New York, June 26 (The New York Times) - The 400 wealthiest taxpayers accounted for more than 1 percent of all the income in the United States in the year 2000, more than double their share just eight years earlier, according to new data from the Internal Revenue Service. But their tax burden plummeted over the period.

The data shows that the average annual income of the 400 wealthiest taxpayers was almost \$174 million. That was nearly quadruple the \$46.8 million average in 1992. The minimum income to qualify for the list was \$86.8 million, more than triple the minimum income of \$24.4 million in 1992.

While the sharp growth in incomes over that period coincided with the burst of the stock market bubble, other factors appear to account for much of the increase. A cut in capital gains tax rates in 1997 to 20 percent from 28 percent encouraged long-term holders of assets, like privately owned businesses, to sell them, and big increases in executive compensation thrust corporate chiefs into the ranks of the nation's aristocracy.

This year's tax cut reduced the capital gains rate further, to 15 percent.

Various government reports indicate that salaries, dividends and other forms of income have continued to rise since then, even as the stock market has fallen.

The top 400 reported 1.1 percent of

all income earned in 2000, up from 0.5 percent in 1992. Their taxes grew at a much slower rate, from 1 percent of all taxes in 1992 to 1.6 percent in 2000, when their tax bills averaged \$38.6 million each.

Those numbers can be read to show that the wealthiest, as a group, carried a disproportionately low share of the overall tax burden, 1.6 percent of all taxes.

In 2000, the top 400 on average

paid 22.3 percent of their income in federal income tax, down from 26.4 percent in 1992. Two factors explain most of this decline: reduced tax rates on long-term capital gains and bigger gifts to charity.

The rate actually paid by the top 400 in 2000 was about the same as that paid by a single person making \$123,000 or a married couple with two children earning \$226,000.

(David Cay Johnston)

Analyst's Take:

In China, the situation is totally different. The income gap occurs in the first round of social interest distribution, such as salaries, interest incomes and operational incomes. We do not have enough rich people and the poor are too poor. What we have to do at present is to "enable people to be rich while helping the poor".

Throughout history, we Chinese have a tradition of pressuring the rich people to share with others in society. Fortunately,

we have realized that this brings no good, and harms the progress of society.

Last year, over 93 percent of China's 1.7 trillion yuan income is from VAT (17 percent) and corporate tax (33 percent over local companies and 15 percent over local-overseas joint ventures). Individual income tax (already divided in 9 categories with the highest rate of 45 percent) contributes less than 7 percent.

China has realized that rich folk play an important role in investment, creating

jobs and setting examples of hard work for others. At present, China has no intention to increase taxes for the rich.

What we need to do more is to help the poor. We have to make the whole of society the base of our taxation before adjusting taxation policy. To this end, the government encourages small businesses and education, which are the fundamental ways for the poor to get out.

— Hao Ruyu, professor, Central University of Finance and Economics

EU Reforms Farm Subsidies Program

Luxembourg, June 27 (AP) - The European Union announced radical changes in its \$50 billion farm subsidy program, slashing incentives for farmers to produce more than Europe can consume or sell abroad.

EU officials urged the United States to follow suit and reform its own farm subsidies program. The United States and other trading partners have long blamed the EU system for creating food surpluses that are dumped on world markets.

Under the reform plan, hammered out by EU agriculture ministers, EU farmers will no longer receive subsidies based on the amount they produce. Instead they will receive an annual payment based on the size of farms.

(Constant Brand)

Bush Weighs Change to Overtime Pay

July 2 (Dow Jones News) - Thousands of white-collar office workers will become ineligible for overtime pay under federal rules being formulated by the Bush administration.

The proposed rules, which don't require congressional approval, would make it tougher for many workers in executive, administrative and technical fields to receive time-and-a-half pay for working more than 40 hours in a week. The rules also would make it tougher for the 20% of Americans who make more than \$65,000 a year to receive overtime pay, while easing the path to overtime pay for the 20% who make less than \$22,100 a year.

While overtime pay often is associated with hourly workers in factories and restaurants, the rules changes could have a broad effect in the office. Roughly 14 million US workers are considered to be managerial, professional, computer-specific and overtime-eligible, according to a 2001 study commissioned by the Labor Department.

(Carlos Tejada)

EU Internet Sales Tax Law Takes Effect

Brussels, July 1 (Reuters) - A new law forcing non-EU firms to collect value-added tax (VAT) on goods sold over the Internet to customers in the 15-nation bloc has come into force.

European Commission officials said the change was likely to affect US Internet firms such as service provider AOL and online auctioneer e-Bay.

They say companies in the bloc, such as the British service provider Freeserve, had complained they were suffering because US firms were not obliged to collect VAT.

Ex-Boeing Execs Face Trade Secret Charges

Los Angeles, June 27 (AP) - Federal prosecutors charged two former Boeing managers with conspiring to steal trade secrets from competitor Lockheed Martin to help their company win an Air Force rocket contract.

Kenneth Branch, 64, and William Erskine, 43, were charged with conspiracy, theft of trade secrets and violating federal procurement integrity laws, according to documents filed late Wednesday in a US District Court in Los Angeles.

Judges Dismiss Lawsuits Against Wall St. Banks

July 1 (Financial Times) - Merrill Lynch and three other big Wall Street investment banks won what may be a pivotal legal victory today when judges dismissed lawsuits claiming that their stock analysts were to blame for millions of dollars in investor losses after the market bubble burst.

Judge Milton Pollack said investors failed to prove that Merrill and its chief internet analyst, Henry Blodget, intended to defraud investors when they published positive recommendations on two internet companies, 24/7 Real Media and Interliant.

The decision came as another judge, Harold Baer, dismissed a similar class action lawsuit against Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse First Boston regarding their positive recommendations on Covad, a telecommunications company.

(Joshua Chaffin in Washington and David Wells in New York)

A South Korea tour group, the first in the capital since the SARS outbreak, ate at the Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant on Monday.

Xinhua Photo



By Shan Jinliang

A group of overseas travelers will enjoy a dinner in the Great Hall of the People at 6:30 pm today, part of a larger campaign to boost tourism in the capital after the debilitating effects of SARS. Over the next few weeks, a total of 1,500 foreign guests will be wined and dined in the massive hall on Tian'anmen Square.

Since June 26, a series of preferential measures have been extended to overseas travelers and travel companies by the Beijing Tourism Bureau, following the World Health Organization's (WHO) lifting of its travel

advisory on the city on June 24. The promotions are aimed at boosting the performance of the city's tourism industry this year, as bureau director Yu Changjiang expressed expectations that tourism revenues will only be about half of those of 2002, meaning total losses of around 45 billion yuan.

The first overseas tour group to come to Beijing since the WHO's move, comprised of South Korean travel agents, airlines staff and media representatives, arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport at 2 pm on Monday, but because their stay

was only four days, they will not be among those feasting at the Great Hall of the People.

The state guests will include 500 tourists from Southeast Asia (including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao) and 300 from Japan, the top inbound tourism market for the capital.

An official surnamed Li from the tourism bureau's international division told *Beijing Today* yesterday that 552 people had registered to attend the banquet.

In a press conference on June 26, director Yu said 80,000 travel brochures with SARS infor-

mation in the four languages of Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean would be distributed to overseas travelers, and the first 100,000 overseas travelers to come after June 24 would be given gifts of Chinese knots. Among other favorable policies, overseas tourists would be able to buy tickets at some scenic spots at off-season rates from June 26 to August 31, Yu added.

The director said the sixth Beijing International Tourism Festival will be held from October 18 to 25, and over 30 countries and regions have expressed interest in attending.

Long Hours, Discounts Draw Swarms of Shoppers

Despite the rain, Wangfujing was wall-to-wall people last Friday night.

Photo by Wang Zhenlong



By Sun Ming

Around 1.5 million people braved intermittent rain to go shopping or head out to eat last Friday evening in Beijing. In just one night, 50 major shopping centers around the city registered total earnings of 200 million yuan, an economic shot in the arm after the quiet weeks under SARS.

The Beijing Commerce Com-

mittee led promotional activities in more than 20 major commercial areas in the first weekend after the WHO lifted its travel advisory regarding Beijing. Over 50 shopping malls and around 1,000 open-air markets cooperated, offering discounts, special entertainment and extending their hours until midnight.

"The activity was warmly welcomed by businesspeople. All

kinds of promotional methods are being applied these days to get consumers to take out their wallets," Yang Xinjing from the news office of the Beijing Commerce Committee told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday.

Ling Defei, a saleswoman at the Wangfujing Department Store, said, "It's the first time in nearly three months that there have been so many people on

Wangfujing Street. People in this city have waited a long time for this moment, not only business owners, but also consumers."

According to the Beijing Commerce Committee, around 200,000 people went to Wangfujing and 300,000 to the Xidan area last Friday, while establishments on Sanlitun Bar Street served nearly 9,000 customers, earning 350,000 yuan.

Remains of Eunuch Raised from Tomb

By Sun Ming

Archaeologists anxiously pried open a tomb of a eunuch from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in Beijing on Saturday.

The tomb, located in Xiangtang village, Changping District, was accidentally discovered by a farmer last Wednesday.

Inside the tomb was a decayed skeleton laying on a coffin board as well as 41 relics, including silver and china pieces, from the Ming Dynasty.

Zhu Zongwei, the discoverer of the ancient tomb, told *Beijing Today* that he knew he had come across something when a block of soil suddenly fell into the earth as he was digging in the area with a small backhoe.

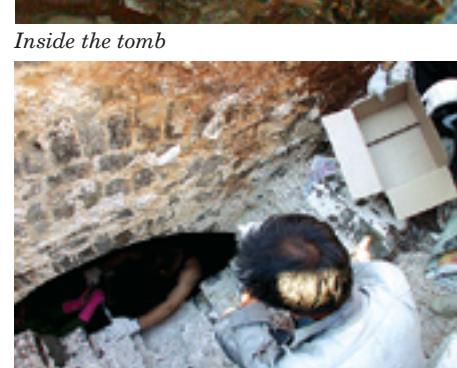
"I also heard a sound like some bricks dropping. Inside it was very dark, but I guessed it might be a tomb," he said. The day after making the surprise discovery, Zhu reported his find to the Changping District Relics Institute.

In order to protect the tomb, the archaeologists from the institute did not enter it directly from the hole at the top of the burial chamber opened by Zhu, instead trying to find the real door.

"In ancient times, doors were usually set in the south faces of buildings, so locating the door was not too difficult," Xing Jun, head of the team of archaeologists, told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

Xing and his co-workers spent around 35 minutes shaking the door of the coffin chamber, which was made from cyan earthenware bricks, and finally got it open after two hours of work. The chamber inside was very damp.

"The wooden coffin was already rotted completely away, leaving the eunuch's skeleton there. Some of his white hair and fragments of the coffin were found on the stone platform," said Xing.



The south-facing door

Photos by Yang Wei

According to Xing, "Even though more tests and analysis are needed, basically we can confirm the tomb was for a Ming eunuch. And he was not a common eunuch, because the coffin chamber was vaulted, made of brick and filled with funerary objects."

He also told *Beijing Today* that a wooden memorial tablet was found in a niche in the east wall of the tomb. While not all the writing on the tablet is clear, the two characters of "太监", meaning eunuch, are easily identifiable. According to residents of Xiangtang village, the village was home to four eunuchs in China's imperial past.

The relics and the eunuch's skeleton have been sent to the Changping District Museum for protection and research.

Fast-Food Chain Forced to Cough Up Salaries

By Chen Ying

The Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court sent representatives to the headquarters of Beijing Aidewei Food and Entertainment and two of its branches last Friday, forcing the company to turn over more than 8,000 yuan to pay the salaries of seven former employees.

Beijing Aidewei Food and Entertainment is a local franchise of US-based A&W, which bills itself as the father of fast-food in America.

The seven former employees, all of whom worked in local A&W restaurants, quit last year because Aidewei failed to pay them for several months.

In the second half of 2002, the Beijing Labor Arbitration Committee asked Aidewei to pay them their outstanding wages within three days after the former employees requested the committee arbitrate the dispute.

However, the company did not accept the committee's decision and sued Li Qi, one of the seven former employees, in Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court in October.

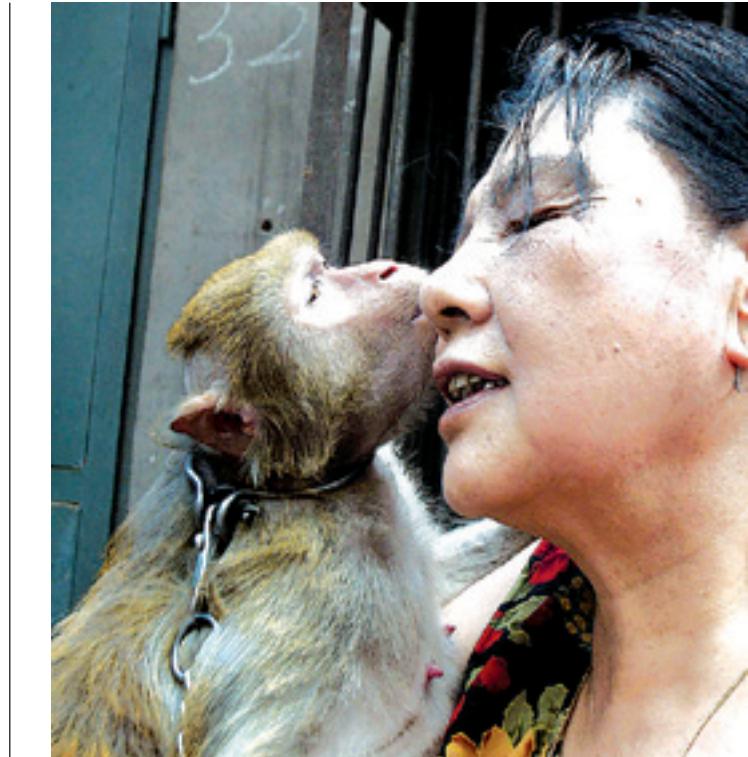
After conducting an

investigation, on January 24, the court came out in support of the committee's judgment, ruling that Li was due his back pay because he had provided labor for the company. Yet the company again refused to turn over the money.

Aidewei is the sole agent of A&W in North and Northeast China. The company opened eight A&W fast-food restaurants around Beijing from 1996 to 1999, though the first one near Modern Plaza in Haidian District closed last October.

In deciding to execute the committee's decision, the court also undertook to get the money owed to the other six people.

While court staff were able to get 8,000 yuan for the former employees, that figure is far from the nearly 60,000 yuan owed to the seven people in total. "After this move, the company has promised to pay 4,000 yuan every Tuesday to the court until the wages are fully paid, as its businesses are slow," a spokesman for Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court told *Beijing Today* yesterday.



Local Woman Gives Up Monkey

By Lisa Lee

Mrs. Jiang said goodbye to a furry friend of fifteen years last Saturday when she turned her pet monkey Feifei over to the Badaling Wildlife Park.

"Feifei was like a member of the family, and there was always an intimate, friendly bond between us," Jiang told *Beijing Today* on Sunday.

She continued that while Feifei is smart and loving, as she grew older, her temper changed for the worse, probably out of loneliness and separation from her kind. After nearly a month of deliberation,

Jiang decided to give the monkey to the wildlife park in order to give her a better life under more natural conditions. Moreover, national law states that all monkeys are protected and should not be kept as private pets.

Feifei is now being held under quarantine in the Badaling Wildlife Park until a thorough physical examination is completed. An employee of the park said the monkey would then be trained and prepared for life with others simians in the park's large monkey area.

Peddler Scout Nabbed

By Sun Ming

Throughout June, a young woman stood outside the gate to the Chaoyang District Datun Administration Office every morning, to the confusion of office staff, as she was not an employee. Last Friday, it became clear that she was there for less-than-honorable reasons.

Under questioning that day, Wang Xinhui, 18, from Henan Province, was tight-lipped and belligerent until it finally came out that she had been standing at the gate as a kind of scout for local illegal street vendors.

Staff of the administration office said they conducted over 20 sudden inspections of unlicensed street vendors in the past month, but most were unsuccessful with just a few offending vendors arrested in each action.

"It was very weird, because we heard that street-corner vendors were still all over the place in the area," said Tang Yuehai, the deputy director of the administration office. "Sometimes we would have just received a tip, but when we got to the spot, the vendors had somehow already vanished."

Tang told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday that the area north of the Asian Games Village, which falls into the office's jurisdiction, has become a gathering point for migrants, many of whom make a living by selling fruit, boxed meals or vegetables on the street without proper licenses.

As the busts continued to fail, office staff began to suspect the involvement of the girl at their gate. In order to test her, Tang and five of his colleagues pretended to set out to conduct an inspection last Friday. As soon as they start-

ed their car, they clearly saw the girl rush to a nearby telephone booth.

"We realized she must be an invisible sentry sent by some venders," recalled Tang. "But she was very bad tempered and difficult. It took us nearly half a day to persuade her to tell us why she was standing outside our office every day."

After being taken into the office, Wang cried for a long time before finally confessing to her covert activities when she heard she would not be fined.

Wang told office staff that she came to Beijing from a village of Henan Province three months before. In late May, she was employed by some unlicensed vendors in the Yayuncun area to call them with advance warning of inspections.

"She said that she could earn 400 yuan per month and the vendors gave her a place to live," said Tang. "We didn't fine her and just gave her a verbal warning out of sympathy, even though she kept crying and said no one would hire her as a messenger again."

Office employees are currently investigating how many vendors were involved in the scouting scheme. Wang claimed she only contacted around a dozen people each time, but office staff have their doubts considering the few number of vendors they have picked up since the young woman was hired.

"We estimate that there are around 100 unlicensed vendors operating in our jurisdiction. We know they usually tip each other off, so often we set out in plain clothes to conduct inspections. But this is definitely the first time we've grabbed a 'professional messenger' like Wang," said Tang.

Foreign Reporters Visit Capital

By Sun Ming

Thirty-six foreign reporters from over 20 countries were invited to visit attractions in Huairou District last Friday in a tour organized by the Beijing Municipal Information Office and the Foreign Affairs Department under the Beijing Municipal Government.

The reporters hit such sites as the Mutianyu Great Wall, Hongluo Temple, Yanxi Lake and Qinglong Gorge as part of continuing efforts to bring more overseas tourists to the areas.



Photo by Zhai Wei

No Sex Please, We're Students

Shenzhen University puts a stop to filthy behavior on campus

By Chen Ying

If Shenzhen University sanctions its new ordinance, lusty young students will just have to keep their hands off each other. No hugging, no fondling and definitely no kissing.

It's all contained in the university's draft of the new Action Moral Codes Management Ordinance. The ordinance is intended to uphold public morals by prohibiting public embracing and kissing on campus. It will also be forbidden for female students to wear revealing outfits.

"The department published the draft in order to collect feedback from the teachers and students and modify some of the items," Zhao Xiaoming, director of the propaganda department of Shenzhen University, told *Beijing Today* this Tuesday. She emphasized the ordinance was not complete yet.

According to the draft, students should make their beds after getting up, and keep the dormitory tidy.

Any shouting or messing around will be strictly forbidden, as

this would disturb other people.

The draft also stipulates evaluation of students' daily behavior. Students who disobey the rules of the ordinance will have marks ticked off against their names. They will be expelled if their scores reach more than 30 according to the new ordinance.

Sounds harsh? Actually Shenzhen University is not the first institute to tread this puritanical path. In June, the Travel Agency Management Department of Zhejiang Tourism Vocation Institute included in its regulations a requirement that male and female students should not embrace on campus.

The Students' Punishment Temporary Regulation (2001 modified version) of Guangzhou-based Jinan University also ruled that students would be warned and then punished for any intimate acts on campus. However, this rule has not been too strictly enforced.

Should college students allow themselves to fall in love? Is it their business and no-one else's? Should universities have the right to limit students' love freedom? Opinions follow:

Zhao Xiaoming, director of propaganda department of Shenzhen University

A university with more than ten thousand students needs a common moral standard to manage people's daily behavior.

The main difference between human beings and animals is that human beings have privacy. This means people's behavior in public should be consistent with universally accepted moral codes and standards.

Animals have no sense of embarrassment. But human beings need to be aware of society's sense of morals.

Lu Xinwei, student from Beijing Normal University

I think college students should

have the freedom to express their personal feelings in public, just so long as their actions are not too extreme. Today, society is so open. I can accept a hug or a kiss in public though I might feel slightly embarrassed.

But it's really unnecessary to regulate this in a university's ordinance. As youngsters, students may be resistant if the university's authorities forbid such actions. It may be more acceptable for students if the authorities promote the ideas in some more appropriate ways, such as erecting notice boards on the campus advising students to respect others while expressing their feelings in public.

Xie Fei, student from Beijing Second Foreign Language University

I agree with this ordinance because it is a common issue on campus. In my university, it is forbidden for female students to wear revealing clothing. It's improper to kiss or embrace on the campus in my mind. But I think this solution may be useless. It must be tiresome for students if the university puts the punishment method into practice.

Zhang Min'an, associate professor from the Law School of Sun Yat-sen University

Citizens should abide by customs and public order according to the Civil Law. Though intimate behavior is a matter for the students, they have the duty to abide by public moral codes since they live on campus.

The university's point is good and reasonable. But it lacks operative possibility. Who will be in charge of supervision? Furthermore, it's hard to mark out the boundaries. It might be improper to hug and kiss in the classroom and on the road. But what if the students kiss in some remote places?

The major duty of university is to educate people. Abiding by good public order should be set up on the basis of morals instead of regulation. It's better to abolish such an ordinance if it can't be enforced.

Xie Anping, Ph.D. from the Law School of Beijing University

Having a kind of right or not mainly depends on whether it will infringe upon other's legal rights or disrupt common social morals and customs.

Personally, I think students should have the right to hug and kiss on campus since these actions don't contradict the common moral standard and do not impinge on other people's legal rights.

Of course, there should be a boundary to one's rights in this regard. There are limits.

Lu Xinwei, from Beijing Rongshang Law Firm

It's reasonable for universities to limit student's intimate actions on campus. The key is what is the proper degree of such limitation. I think it's improper if the authorities just make some bans and punishment. I can't find any similar items in Education Law.

Most college students' age is more than 18. As the educators and managers, the university's authorities should pay more attention to how to guide young people in establishing the right views of love and life instead of preventing.

It contradicts our original education intention if the authorities expel students only because of intimate behavior on campus. It's a kind of failure for educators.

'It contradicts our original education intention if the authorities expel students only because of intimate behavior on campus. It's a kind of failure for educators.'

— Lu Xinwei

Readers & Leaders

We welcome your letters and articles, preferably around 700 words. Please give your full name, current address and phone number (not necessarily for publication). You can email us at comment@ynet.com or fax us at (010) 6590 2525.

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of *Beijing Today*.

It's Not the Clothes You Wear...

By Lizi Hesling

We foreigners have a pretty tough time of it here in China. I mean, despite the fact that we can earn huge amounts of ready cash just for having parents who happened to speak English, get respect as experts for no other reason than having big noses and get to spend all our time drinking in expensive bars done up to look like something out of "Raise the Red Lantern", we have to put up with so much *mafan* (trouble).

We get stared at by strangers as if we were parading down the street in the emperor's new clothes. We get cheated because people think we're rich and stupid. We get hassled by petty officials and police who don't understand our notions of freedom and human rights. We get annoyed by passers-by who want to try out their non-existent English and don't understand our feelings about personal space or how incredibly busy we are. Awful isn't it!

No wonder that Western guy in Nanjing felt he had to wear a T-shirt advising all Chinese onlookers how to treat him: "don't stare at foreigners; charge the same price for both Chinese and foreigners; don't say hello or OK to foreigners; don't give foreigners fake money or offer them an unreasonable exchange rate; allow foreigners to stay in cheap hotels; etc, etc." One can only hope the young man in question was wearing these words in irony. Because, to be frank, none of these things are actually that important.

It is understandable, although rather ridiculous, that a couple of Chinese onlookers (who were, by the way, both male) decided to take offence at the "arrogance" of this foreigner and asked him to take his T-shirt off. Many of my Chinese friends openly admit to disliking foreigners, not for personal reasons, but because they have it so cushy here in China and don't even seem to realize it. Not only is it easy for foreigners to find well-paid jobs, but we get treated far more

politely and with far more leniency than any Chinese person would ever expect. We get access and respect just for the color of our skin. And we get to come to China just because we want to, swan around here having fun for a few years and then up and abandon the place whenever we get bored. What right do we have to get snooty-nosed about a little thing like being stared at when Chinese people have to deal every day with fundamental problems like having no cash, no *guanxi* (connections), very little freedom of movement and very little chance to say anything openly about it?

But perhaps what most annoyed the offended parties in Nanjing about the young Western man was the fact that he was accompanied by a Chinese girl. This may be pure conjecture on my part, but it is true enough to say that the issue of inter-racial relationships remains one of the most sensitive when it comes to the position of foreigners in China.

Anyone who has been to Sanlitun will be aware why this is a sensitive issue. This strip of crass neon-lit bars is the backdrop to some of the rawest and perhaps most stereotypical manifestations of inter-racial relationships. It is here that we can find the foreign man, often already married, feeling uninhibited on exotic shores and throwing his money around in rather gross fashion with the painfully blatant aim of getting a quick taste of oriental flesh; and the Chinese girl wearing a very revealing (and not very Chinese) outfit, perfectly willing to be pawned if there is the possibility of being taken back to his land of the free where life will no doubt be a bowl of cherries. Confronted with such a scene, "offended in Nanjing" may well have asked himself: "why should foreign men have such easy access to Chinese girls and why do Chinese girls insult their menfolk and their country by giving themselves up so readily to unworthy outsiders?" A male Chinese friend of mine comments with indignation

on this phenomenon, disliking the "superiority complex" of *laowai* who "occupy our natural resources (Chinese women)", and claiming that, what with the increasing number of wealthy, well-built foreign men in China and the decreasing number of Chinese women that is the result of the government's population control policies, Chinese men are finding it more and more difficult to find wives. My response to this is: why on earth don't you go out and get a foreign girlfriend?

Far from the madding masses of Sanlitun and the nationalist "sick man of Asia" fears of Chinese men, inter-racial relationships are becoming more and more common. At a party I went to last night, there were four couples, all of which were mixed. A Chinese boy with an ABC girl, another Chinese boy with a white American girl, a white American man with a Chinese woman, and a European girl with a Chinese girl. I could go on for pages about all the political issues that these four different relationships bring up, but no-one at that party thought it worth noticing the fact that we were not all of the same creed. A relationship between two people should be a personal affair that is about two people rather than about two countries. No two people, even from the same country, can come together without bringing two different cultures together and it is these two cultures that make a relationship rich. Bringing nationalism and politics into the equation is pointless and crass, creating problems that don't have to be there.

By wearing that T-shirt, the Westerner in Nanjing only brought attention to the fact that he was a foreigner when he should have brought attention to the fact that he was a person.

One wonders what the T-shirt his girlfriend was wearing said.

Lizi Hesling is from the UK and has been living and working in China for three years.

Who is WHO?

By Cindy L. Jiang

Holidays, traveling and enjoying leisure time in gyms, cinemas and entertainment centers are here again, thanks to the WHO (World Health Organization).

WHO has set Beijing free from SARS. On June 24, the WHO announced "two lifts" on Beijing — lifting it from its list of SARS-infected areas and lifting its travel advisory against the city.

This is what Beijing has been waiting for, not only the government but also the people. People have indeed been counting the days. When a rumor went around that the WHO had decided to remove its travel advisory, it immediately became big news on sina.com, which spread it to millions of surfers and short message users.

Beijing is sincerely grateful for the WHO's declaration. It means the approval of the city's normal colorful life and the renewal of booming economic development. WHO is now seen as powerful and decisive in Beijing.

The SARS outbreak has helped China get to know WHO a lot better. Reviewing the spread of SARS, the WHO has been seen acting busily with member countries like Vietnam and China.

Vietnam's medical authorities immediately reported to the WHO the first "mystery" case of Jonny Chen — who

later died from SARS — after normal treatment failed. Dr. Carlo Urbani, a Vietnam-based WHO communicable disease expert, came to the French Hospital in Vietnam where Chen was being treated and realized just how dangerous the disease was. (The Italian doctor unfortunately contracted the disease and died of it later.) This was vital in helping the WHO in identifying the disease and working out measures for containing and preventing its spread. Vietnam benefited from this swift action. Tran Van Luat, Vietnamese Ambassador to China, contributed to the timely and close cooperation with the WHO when introducing Vietnam's experience to Beijing's media in May.

As to the first cases with SARS symptoms that appeared in China, they were not reported to the WHO quickly for help or information exchange. This was partly because of the mysterious and unidentified nature of the disease. It doesn't mean that medical workers and medical authorities in China intended to hide a disease that they couldn't deal with. Definite figures are not available for patients who die from unclear medical conditions in China. But patients suffering from "strange" diseases are common in China. The reality is that in a country of 1.3 billion people, troubling cases

like SARS are not uncommon. The big hospitals in big cities often face medical challenges with patients from rural areas.

As to communication or information exchange with the WHO, the fact is that the WHO used not to be that well known in China, even though China became a member of WHO when it was founded in 1948. In the Chinese media, the WHO used to be mentioned during research conferences or when donating medical equipment to organizations in China. Sometimes, the WHO did help with treatment but only in some specific cases and mainly for collective research goals. It took time for China to get used to more detailed and further contact with the WHO.

In fact, after the deep involvement of fighting against SARS together with China, the WHO has left behind an impression to Chinese that it is an authoritative and powerful part of international society. In a recent CCTV show, the famous anchor Wang Zhi raised the question with Henk Beke-dam, WHO representative in China, of whether the WHO had involved itself too far in China regarding SARS. Beke-dam replied that the WHO was concerned about people's health rather than power.

After SARS, China now knows much more about who is WHO.

Cindy L. Jiang, deputy director of Beijing Today

SOUND BITES

"I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate earnestly that the new central government will, as always, unswervingly implement the policy of 'one country, two systems' (and) act in strict accordance with the Basic Law."

— China's Premier Wen Jiabao pledged on Tuesday at an event to mark the former British colony's return to China six years ago that China will uphold rights

and freedoms in Hong Kong and support the territory's economy.

"If not for them, I would have died alone."

— "Zhang", a young Chinese homosexual who preferred to remain anonymous, found the courage to go on with his life after calling a hotline staffed by volunteers providing psychological support and information on venereal diseases and AIDS to homo-

sexuals in Heilongjiang Province. Volunteer hotlines for homosexuals have emerged in 13 Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Most of these hotlines were founded by gay volunteers or by experts from the country's medical and family planning sections.

"They are making fools out of us. If you want to make some serious changes, open the roads,

remove the checkpoints and let people in to work, then maybe we can believe that the Israelis have good intentions."

— Jaudat Joude, who has been unable to reach his job at a Jerusalem welding factory since almost three years ago. Palestinian police moved Wednesday into the West Bank town of Bethlehem, the second area handed over by Israel under a US-backed Mideast peace plan.

"The truth is that Posh and Becks are irreplaceable. We've covered Posh and Becks in many roles, with him as footballer, her as singer, them as a couple. Now we're going to follow them going through the life challenge of being in a different country and a different culture. It just adds another twist to it all."

— Mark Frith, editor of Heat, one of Britain's best-known celebrity magazines. England cap-

tain David Beckham has officially become a Real Madrid player, completing a transfer which was as much about global business as footballing skills. As David Beckham and his Spice Girl wife Victoria embark on a new life in Spain, Britain's celebrity watchers are scouring their gossip magazines for a new couple to take over as the nation's unofficial king and queen.

By Chen Ying

By Su Wei

Two months after her 25th birthday, Li Shuying, a peasant from Yunnan, was executed for drug trafficking. On the same day, June 25, five other people were executed after being convicted on drug charges by Beijing No.2 Intermediate Court.

Li began trafficking drugs early in 2000. The first time, she earned 3,000 yuan by transporting 700 grams of heroin from Yunnan to Hebei. In the following two months she trafficked 1,700 grams and 3,450 grams of heroin from Yunnan to Beijing. For her next trip she was promised 10,000 yuan but this time she was captured after arriving in the capital. "It is too late for me to regret what I have done," she cried before being executed.

Increasing demand for unconventional drugs

The demand for traditional narcotics such as opium and marijuana has been decreasing since 1995. In 2001, these traditional drugs made up around nine percent of the total amount confiscated by police, seven percent less than in 1995.

Although heroin is still considered by police to be the main drug being trafficked and sold in Beijing, the amounts are decreasing. In 2001 the amount of heroin confiscated by Beijing police was less than 25 percent of the total, below the average annual amount (30 percent). Heroin confiscations used to make up 48 percent of the total. Instead, "designer drugs" like ecstasy and ice (a kind of refined speed) are becoming more popular. These two drugs made up 12 percent of all the drug confiscations by Beijing police in 2001.

Who is involved?

An article in *Beijing Jiancha*, a local magazine, published by Beijing People's Procuratorate in February this year, says that the number of non-Beijingers involved in the capital's drug market has risen in the past four years from 20 to more than 60 percent.

Women are also playing an increasing role in the drug trade, according to local Beijing procuratorates. In 1995, 86 women were charged with drug crimes in Beijing, 16 percent of the total number of people charged. In 2001, 188 women were charged, around 20 percent of the total.

Sha Lai, from Xinjiang, was sentenced to death by Beijing No.1 Intermediate Court last Thursday. She sold over 400 grams of heroin within four months after coming to Beijing in May 2002. "I did not intend to be a drug dealer. I looked for my younger brother in Beijing but I couldn't find him. I had

Drugs and the City

to live," she told police. Sha first helped drug dealers in trafficking and later established her own network, hiring people from her hometown to sell drugs.

Around two weeks ago, police from Beijing Public Security Bureau, Chaoyang Branch, caught three drug users in the act of thieving. The three, aged between 20 and 23, have been taking drugs for at least five years. They were stealing in order to fund their habit.

Research conducted by Beijing police among 42,131 users who had quit drugs found that the youngest drug taker was only 11. Of the total, 727 people first took drugs when they were aged below 18. More than 78 percent of the people surveyed first took drugs between the ages of 19 and 35.

Beijing police also noticed that people with high educational backgrounds were involved in drug crimes. Liu Yingquan, a researcher at the Chinese Medicine Research Institute, was sentenced to death by Beijing No.1 Intermediate Court on October 24, 2001. Having developed a drug from a strictly controlled anesthetic medicine, he had been selling his concoction to drug dealers for three years since 1998, offloading 30 kilograms of the drug.

Three months later, two doctors at the institute, Tao Shuyun and Xia Honghai, were also arrested for making drugs. Theirs were based on a strictly controlled psychiatric medicine.

On the rise

The article published in *Beijing Jiancha* in February this year says the annual increase of people committing drug crimes is over 35 percent. Last year, 927 suspected drug criminals were arrested and 949 were sentenced by courts. These figures are nearly twice as high as in 1998 and 41 times higher than in 1992.

The article also states that guns are now being used more widely by drug dealers. Fifteen cases in 2001 involved exchange of gunfire. In that year, 26 guns, 547 bullets and one military gas canister were confiscated.

The involvement of dealers from

outside China's mainland is also a key characteristic of drug crimes in Beijing, according to police.

In April 2001, police caught a group of drug dealers who had been cooperating with some Hong Kong dealers since early 2000. In that time the group had sold 50,000 tablets of ecstasy. In the bust, police confiscated 2.7 kilograms of ketamine, over 4,000 tablets of ecstasy and forty marijuana cigarettes, over 100 yuan in cash and two vehicles.

In June 2001, a Japanese man aged 72, was caught at the Capital International Airport trying to transport 1.8 kilograms of ice to South Korea. He was sentenced to life imprisonment by Beijing No.1 Intermediate Court one year later.

In March 2003, a foreigner at the Capital International Airport was caught with 13,000 tablets of ecstasy. Beijing police say he was a regular drug dealer.

Zhang Xinxian of the Detection and Monitoring Department of Beijing People's Procuratorate, also one of

the two authors of the article in *Beijing Jiancha*, says there is "a big demand for drugs in Beijing."

The number of known drug users has been rising at an average rate of 32 percent in the past four years. Police compiled their figures from people either caught or admitted to drug rehab clinics. In 1992, the total number of known drug takers in Beijing was just 36. The number rose steeply to 3,180 in 1997, 13,282 in 2001 and over 28,000 in 2002.

"Usually one drug user has at least five other drug-using friends," Zhang warned in the article.

Catch 'em

Wang Ming, vice president of Beijing Higher People's Court says that the 17 kilograms of drugs confiscated over the first five months this year can hardly be believed to have met the demand of the 28,000 known drug users in Beijing.

Zhang says Beijing has now become a major connecting point for drug trafficking, not only for inland areas and the north east but also for the rest of South East Asia, Russia and Japan.

The huge profit from selling drugs in Beijing suggests the fight will be a long-term one. The price for one gram of heroin sold in Beijing is around seven times that in China's border areas where it

costs around 10 yuan.

According to Ruan Zengyi, deputy director of the Beijing Public Security Bureau, the craftiness of drug traffickers also makes it hard to catch them.

Beijing and Sichuan police cracked a case early in April this year involving Wang Shuming, the head of a group of drug traffickers. Wang, a Beijinger, had continually escaped detection by always changing his mobile phone numbers.

After his capture, Wang confessed that he had been selling drugs in Beijing which he purchased from Sichuan and Chongqing for a long time.

"I usually found someone to place my luggage containing the drugs on the train. Then I sat nearby keeping watch," he said to police. "If there was nothing abnormal, I picked up the luggage at the destination. Otherwise I just left it."

Drug traffickers also take advantage of postal services. In August last year, Beijing police found 78.5 grams of marijuana in an international express sent to Japan. The package didn't look unusual but when they took

it apart, they found a magazine inside with some pages missing. In their place was a bag of marijuana, placed between the two pages.

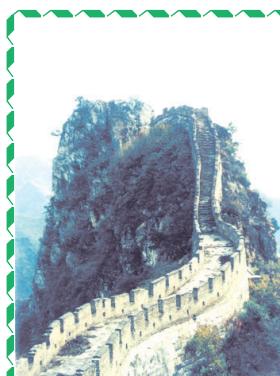
Zhang says there has been an increase in trafficking of small amounts of drugs since 1998. According to Chinese Criminal Law, smuggling, trafficking, selling and production of drugs is illegal, regardless of the quantity involved. But sentences are relatively light if the quantity is small and if police believe it's only intended for private use. For instance, possession of up to 200 grams of opium does not necessarily incur a stiff sentence. Sentences only become severe if someone is suspected of being a drug dealer or trafficker.

"So some suspected drug dealers refuse to say where they got the drugs and what they intend to do with them in order to obtain lighter sentences," Zhang says.

Photo / Tony Stone



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They Forgot the Kid

By Zeng Pengyu/Su Wei

Li Guifang was sent to the Compulsory Drug Quitting Center of Chengdu Public Security Bureau in June this year. Unfortunately police failed to inform her neighbors and relatives of this, so her three-year-old daughter was left alone at home.

Two weeks ago, the little girl was found dead from starvation in the apartment.

Child waiting at home

On the evening of June 21 this year, police at Qingbaijiang Public Security Bureau, Chengdu, Sichuan, received a report saying there was a terrible smell coming from a first-floor apartment at Entrance No.3, Building No.1 in Jiugian Living Community.

Li Guifang and her three-year-old daughter Li Siyi, lived in that apartment though neighbors had not seen them for some days.

When police from the local Tuanjiecun Police Station entered the apartment they found the little girl. She was lying in a bedroom, the door of which had been locked and tied tightly with a rope. The windows of the apartment were closed. No food or water was found in the apartment.

Neighbors said this was not the first time the girl had been left at home by her mother, who has been a drug taker since the early 1990s. She would leave her daughter behind while going out and stealing to support her habit.

But neighbors said it was the first time the girl had been locked in the main bedroom. In the past she had been left in a small bedroom next to the balcony, close to other people's apartments. They used to hand some food to the girl through a hole in the window of the small bedroom when Li Guifang went out and locked the girl at home.

Mu Yu, a student policeman having his internship at Tuanjiecun Police Station, then called Li Defang several times but no one answered the phone. Mu did not report this to the police station management staff or keep any phone call record. The matter was forgotten.

The neighbors said they never heard the girl crying. They just remembered she always stood beside the windows looking out.

Police investigation

"We feel sad about the way the girl died. We have children of our own," said Wang Mo, director of the Information Office of Chengdu Public Security Bureau.

On the afternoon of June 4 this year, Li Guifang locked her daughter at home and went to the nearby Jintang County to steal in order to get money to buy drugs. After being captured by Huang Xiaobing and Wang Hualin, policemen from Chengjiao Police Station, Li Guifang confessed her crime. After a routine examination, she was found to be a drug taker. It was decided to send her to the compulsory drug quitting center.

During her interrogation, Li Guifang told Wang Xin and Lu Xiaohui, vice heads of the police station, that she had a three-year-old daughter at home alone. She asked to go home to make sure her daughter was okay. She was refused. So she asked Wang to contact her elder sister, Li Defang, and ask her to go and get her daughter.

After having called Li Defang several times in vain, police of



Li Siyi's lifeline: the hole in the window of the bedroom where she usually stayed



Photo by Zeng Pengyu

Chengjiao Police Station called Tuanjiecun Police Station on the same day and asked them to get through to Li Defang about taking care of Li Siyi. Mu Yu, a student policeman having his internship at Tuanjiecun Police Station, then called Li Defang several times but no one answered the phone. Mu did not report this to the police station management staff or keep any phone call record. The matter was forgotten.

Tuanjiecun Police Station is 100 meters away from Li Defang's home. It's also about 10 minutes' walk from the community where Li Guifang lived.

Chengdu Public Security Bureau has condemned the police staff involved in the case and begun disciplinary proceedings. It said the local police were guilty of "extremely irresponsible, indifferent law enforcement, severe negligence and dereliction of duty."

Last Tuesday, Chengdu Public

Security Bureau announced that Wang Xin and Lu Xiaohui, vice heads of Chengjiao Police Station, together with Huang Xiaobing and Wang Hualin, policemen at the same station, have been handed over to the local procuratorate, where their punishment will be decided.

Wu Shijian, political commissar of the Public Security Bureau of Jintang County, Liu Jiguo and Wang Jiyong, head and vice head of Chengjiao Police Station, Wang Guofu and Qiu Xiaolin head and political instructor of Tuanjiecun Police Station, have been removed from their positions.

Mu Yu, the student policeman, has been expelled from his study program.

Wang Mo says the bureau is now investigating why police failed in notifying Li Guifang's relatives that she had begun a compulsory drug quitting program.

According to the Regulations

on Compulsory Drug Quitting set by the State Council and put into effect on January 12, 1995, relatives must be informed within three days.

"The actions we have taken so far are just preliminary," Wang said. "We intend to handle this matter sternly once we have decided what happened."

Deserving to be a mother?

In her neighbors' eyes, Li Guifang was a "problem person". She divorced her husband over ten years ago after he committed murder and was sent to prison. She had a son with her ex-husband but the courts decided the boy should be raised by his father.

She then developed drug addiction and was fired from her job at Panzhihua Steel and Iron Factory. Since then she has been arrested by police more than a dozen times while committing theft and drug crimes. In 2001, she was sentenced to a three-year probation for sell-

ing drugs. At that time her daughter, Li Siyi, was only one year old.

Neighbors recall that friends tried to persuade Li Guifang to have an abortion after she became pregnant. But she insisted on giving birth, saying she wanted to have a child and to be a mother.

"No one knows who the girl's father was, and she never told us anything about him," said Li Defang, Li Guifang's elder sister.

Neighbors and Li Guifang's relatives describe Li Siyi as having a round face, big eyes and two pig-tails. They all thought Li Guifang would change after having a child, but she remained the same, still taking drugs, having affairs with different men and stealing.

However they all agree that Li Guifang did care about her daughter. When her 92-year-old father died last year, the family's monthly 500 yuan income from the old man's pension came to a stop.

In order to avoid her daughter going hungry, Li Guifang often stole bread and milk from nearby supermarkets. When she was caught she would plead for mercy, saying she had a little child to raise and people would let her go.

Neighbors once tried to find a welfare house to adopt Li Siyi but the Chinese Adoption Law regulates that welfare houses cannot adopt a child if his or her parents are still alive. They then found a family to adopt the girl. Li Guifang agreed at first but then she just asked the family for money when she needed to buy drugs.

Li Defang says Li Guifang usually asked her for money but she did not give her too much, just 10 or 20 yuan. "If it were not for concern for my niece, I would not have given her a penny," she said. "I was afraid she might use the money to buy drugs."

Police once asked Li Defang to adopt Li Siyi but she refused, saying she did not want to have endless trouble from Li Guifang.

Li Defang says she knows why her younger sister tied a rope to the door of the main bedroom. "Locks in her apartment could all be opened or closed from the inside. Not too long ago Li Siyi opened the locks and went out," she recalled. "My sister was concerned that something might happen to her daughter, so she used a rope to tie the door."

Mother still in rehab

When Beijing Today called the Drug Quitting Center at Jiuruncun, Chengdu, this Thursday, the center confirmed that Li Guifang had not left the center since arriving there in early June. They said Li Guifang needs to stay for another three months to complete her program.

A staff member at the center, who refused to give his name, told Beijing Today that Li Guifang had been informed about her daughter's death.

So far she has not applied for temporary leave, even though she is entitled to this under the Regulations on Compulsory Drug Quitting.

National Geographic Locates China

By Ivy Zhang

Two local companies are bringing a prestigious foreign publication to local bookshelves: National Geographic's *Through the Lens*, a 504-page volume of images spanning the famous magazine's photographic history.

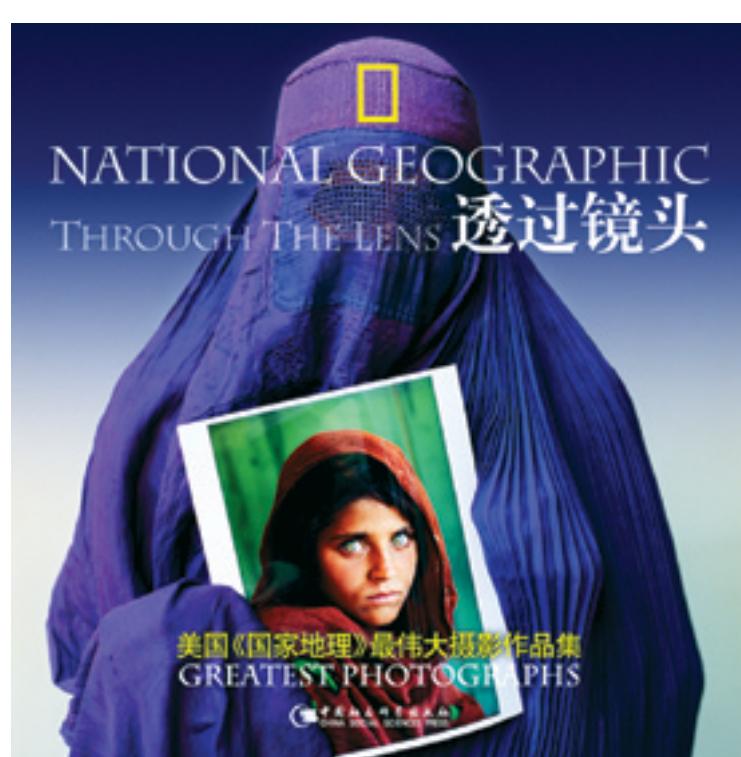
Beijing-based Trends Magazine along with China Social Sciences Publishing House have been granted the exclusive rights to translate and distribute the simplified Chinese version of the book in China. This is the first time for a local magazine publisher to collaborate with a book publisher in introducing a foreign book to China.

The book, showcasing National Geographic's most remarkable photographs, will go on sale around the world in October, selling for about \$30.

Unlike Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, whose Chinese version will follow months after the English version made its debut around the world late last month, the Chinese version of *Through the Lens* is to hit the Chinese market at the same time as in other countries.

"In the past, there were many restrictions as the market here was not open. The only way we could publish a foreign book was to purchase its copyright," said Wang Lei, director of the promotion and planning department of China Social Sciences Publishing House. "But now we can do it by purchasing the copyright, introducing the English copy, or participating in global sales."

Through the Lens: National Geographic Greatest Photographs features 250 images chosen from National Geographic's archive of about 10 million photographs, both published and unpublished.



The archive, spanning the history of the photographic medium, from rare glass Autochromes to film negatives and transparencies to cutting-edge digital photographs, offers an unparalleled view of the world over the past 100 years.

The book showcases the work of 84 of National Geographic's celebrated photographers.

"The photographs in this book reflect the passion and dedication of men and women who are the best in their field. National Geographic photographers go to the ends of the earth to get their shots, often at great peril to themselves - several have been in plane crashes, one was attacked by a shark, others have contracted diseases such as malaria and meningitis. Just this month our photographer in Baghdad nar-

rowly missed injury when the hotel she was in was shelled by US military forces," National Geographic Society President and CEO John Fahey said.

Through the Lens is organized geographically into six chapters covering Europe, Asia, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East, islands and the realm beneath the sea, and space.

The power of the pictures in *Through the Lens* "says much about the continuing validity of still photography in a world saturated by television, movies, and video," writes National Geographic's Paul Martin in his introduction.

The collaboration of Trend Magazine and China Social Sciences Publishing House has beaten down other domestic publishers and foreign publishers to part-

nership with National Geographic in its distribution in China. The reason is not that "we offer high royalties but because we offer an enticing marketing and sales plan," said Wang.

It took National Geographic Society two years to produce this book. "Profits are not the main concern of the Society. They want to promote their brand name globally at the time of its 115th anniversary," said Wang. "Our plan just helps them to promote their brand name in mainland China."

Established in 1993, Trend Magazine has ten publications targeting young and fashionable readers. Its first partnership with the Society can be traced back to late 2001 when it signed a copyright contract with National Geographic Traveler. But as a periodical company, Trend is not allowed to publish books in China.

As for the 25-year-old China Social Sciences Publishing House, it mainly publishes academic and in-depth books with a readership of scholars and academics. Since its establishment, it has published more than 1,000 translations of foreign books.

Trend wants to enter the book market. They have great marketing and sales experience," said Wang. "By working with them, we have established our presence in the periodical market in addition to our existing book market."

The two publishers have five-year-long distribution rights for the book. It's to be distributed in China by giving retailers proprietary rights. In each bookstore that is entitled to sell the book, a framed credential will be hung up. "For the book store, it is a kind

of honor to sell National Geographic books. Meanwhile, it also promotes the brand name of National Geographic," said Wang.

This proprietary distribution method should also help prevent piracy. Only stores with the credentials will be able to sell the book. In any case, piracy would be really difficult because of the high-quality paper used in the book, according to Wang.

The Chinese translation was done early this May. The initial print run of 250,000 copies of the book in 20 languages will be printed in Spain and then delivered to different countries.

As for pricing in the Chinese market, Wang confirms it will be a bit more than the standard price of \$30, given transportation and other fees. But it will definitely be below 300 yuan.

Wang says his company has learnt a lot through communication with the Society, gaining a better understanding of modern publishing concepts in particular.

"The book is a cultural commodity. Its brand name and image is inseparable with the commodity," he said. "In the domestic market, people don't pay much attention to the brand name. That's why the domestic market is kind of messy with many fashionable books and repetitive publications."

Since China's entry into the World Trade Organization in late 2001, the book market has opened up. There are about 600 publishers in China, more than 200 of whom are based in Beijing. "In the past, only five or six Chinese publishers in Beijing were allowed to import and export books. But now, every publisher can apply to import and export books," said Wang.

A staff member at the center, who refused to give his name, told Beijing Today that Li Guifang had been informed about her daughter's death.

So far she has not applied for temporary leave, even though she is entitled to this under the Regulations on Compulsory Drug Quitting.



By Zhao Pu

In Chinese, his name is Yeren (wild man). In English, it's Bigfoot. The French call him "l'Homme Sauvage." But despite all these names, no-one is actually sure that he exists. However, according to Xinhua, six people saw him just last Sunday. There have been numerous other sightings in Shennongjia Nature Reserve in Hubei Province of a strange creature who looks like a kind of half man / half ape.

Yu Jun is in no doubt at all. Yu, formerly a successful



The toy-like DIY helicopter is a new hope for Yu to achieve his dream.

Persevering with Mission Unbelievable

photographic entrepreneur, has been on the trail of the "wild man" since 1979. After several abortive attempts to find the creature, he's now building a DIY helicopter to track his prey from the air. Neighbors have got used to Yu's obsession and pass by the huge toy-like helicopter with its wooden propeller blades outside his home with little comment. But few people understand him. Yu doesn't care. "It's not an interest. This is my life," he says.

Mission impossible

Yu was one of China's pioneer private businessmen. In 1979, he opened photo studio with his two brothers Yu Gong and Yu Jian. The business became successful by offering prices much lower than those at state owned photo studios. In half a year they earned about 10,000 yuan, a huge sum of money at that time, when most people were receiving less than 100 yuan for their monthly salary.

But Yu was not satisfied with a prosperous business and simply being rich at the age of 25. What he dreamed of was something bigger and more important. "I thought of doing something great, something beneficial to our country and maybe to the world," he says. Then he read about the sightings of "wild men" in the forests of Shennongjia, Hubei Province.

The article, written by wildlife researcher Zhou Guoxing from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, detailed a sighting in 1977 of the strange creature. It ignited Yu's youthful enthusiasm. "What a great thing it will be if I can find these creatures and prove their existence to the world!" he thought.

He brought the newspaper back to his younger brothers and asked their opinion. "Look, if we can find the wild man in Shennongjia, which is a big mystery in the world, we'll become heroes!" They all agreed to start upon the adventure.

His two younger brothers, 24 and 22, were just as ambitious as he was. "We just wanted to do something great, apart from ordinary life. If we could solve the puzzle, our lives would be meaningful!" they believed.

The three brothers wrote a letter to the paleo-anthropology department of the

Chinese Academy of Sciences, volunteering to search for the wild man in Shennongjia. Yuan Zhenxin, a researcher at the department wrote back to them, thanking them for their sincere offer. The Yu brothers visited Yuan to discuss the matter.

"We had a pleasant talk," Yu recalls. Doctor Yuan encouraged them on their bold idea, but reminded them of the difficulty of their mission. "He asked us how we could survive without enough food and safe places to sleep. I answered that we could survive if the wild man could," says Yu.

The money they earned from the photo business provided the funds for the project. They bought a Seagull Camera for 480 yuan. They tried to contact the Wuhan branch of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and applied to attend their exploration team to Shennongjia as volunteers but were rejected. They decided to go by themselves.

"My two brothers went for the first trip, and I stayed at home to handle logistics," says Yu. Yu Gong and Yu Jian set out in May 1980. In the following two years, they searched Shennongjia for traces of the beast.

They didn't have much success. They found only a bit of hair and excrement which might have come from the wild man. Meanwhile, they also traveled to Shaanxi Province as reports of sightings of wild men had emerged from there too.

During the two years, Yu communicated with his two brothers by letter. They wrote to each other frequently. "They reported their situation to me, sharing every detail of their progress and I provided suggestions and solutions on the basis of the research I was doing," says Yu.

Their first exploration was to some extent rather blind, without an efficient method. "They just ran from one place to another, threading through forests and valleys," says Yu. But the three of them still kept a firm belief in the existence of the wild man in Shennongjia.

Misfortune Since 1984, Yu has made eight exploration trips to Shennongjia in search of the wild man with his brothers. Yu gradually realized that



The eaten corn cob is evidence Yu collected in Shennongjia.

Y u was not satisfied with a prosperous business and simply being rich at the age of 25. What he dreamed of was something bigger and more important. "I thought of doing something great, something beneficial to our country and maybe to the world," he says.



"Look, his foot is similar but bigger than man's."

collecting information from local people was a vital part of the process.

In 1995, Yu discovered from local residents that the wild man apparently liked stealing corn from farms. "Several people told me they had found eaten corn cobs in their farms in autumn, and that they didn't seem to have been eaten by people or wild animals," says Yu. He decided to focus his research in this area.

Unfortunately, a tragedy befell Yu's brother Yu Gong in 1996. He was killed in a car accident on his way back from Shennongjia.

That was a big blow for Yu. He suspended his exploration for two years after the accident, wavering between grieving for his brother and his desire to continue the search. "Though I stopped the work, I stopped it in appearance. It never left my mind. I was constantly thinking about it," he says.

In 1998 Yu and his youngest brother Yu Jian resumed their project. They spent 80 thousand yuan on making a hydrogen balloon. "We needed something to help us look down on the forest in Shennongjia," says Yu. In a trial flight in the south suburbs of Beijing, the balloon exploded.

Four people in the balloon including Yu and his brother were injured. Yu Jian's injury was the most severe. If the first tragedy didn't shake Yu's commitment to the search for the wild man, the second one did.

Yu couldn't make up his mind. "Is it worth such big losses? Is there really a result for all our efforts? When will this end?" he asked himself.

Finally he decided he had no choice but to continue with the search. "20 years ago the three of us made the decision together. One of my brothers died for it, and the other was severely injured. If I give up, their sacrifice will have no value," he says. "I am the only one left to fulfill our ideal. I will finish it for them."

Exploration trips in the following years gave him confidence. In 1999, Yuan organized an exploration team of volunteers, mostly his friends, and set out for Shennongjia on August 1. "On August 1, the day we set out

from Beijing, and August 2, the day we arrived at Shennongjia, two local peasants reported seeing the wild man in the same location," says Yuan excitedly. "It seemed we had chosen the right time."

In his exploration in 1999 and 2000, Yuan found footprints and eaten corn cobs likely to have been left by the wild man.

Up, up and away

"The problem is how to find him," says Yu. "I need an aircraft." But he had no money left to buy an aircraft. In the 1990s he had built an iron workshop with a friend and earned some money. But the balloon and exploration trips had already used up all his money.

He tried to find sponsors for his project, but nobody responded. He contacted a newspaper and asked them to publish his story. "I wanted them to do some publicizing for me," says Yu. He told them that he planned to invite volunteers to join his exploration team, and that he needed sponsors for his project. The newspaper was interested, and offered to serialize his story. But Yu refused. "They wanted to exaggerate the whole thing. We didn't come to an understanding," he explained.

At last, he decided to make an aircraft by himself. "I had to do something. I couldn't just sit there and wait," he says. Yu has an old Lada car, which accompanied him in his exploration trips for many years. He used the engine of the retired car for the helicopter.

Before he began to make his machine, Yu went to the Institute of Astronautics for help. He met a teacher in a laboratory who gave him some directions and basic information on making a helicopter. He went back home and began to collect materials. "Most of the materials were collected from rubbish dumps," says Yu. The blades on the helicopter are made of wood, as he can't afford steel blades. The seat is also from his old car. Now the helicopter is almost complete. It has cost him over 1,000 yuan.

Yu thinks he's just in time. "Wild men are running around in the forests in Shennongjia, while I have been busy building my helicopter. But I'll find them soon," he smiles.

Photos by Hu Jinxin

Auctions Spring into Summer



Lot 893, Qing Emperor Kangxi's seal, no estimate, Huachen Auctions.

By Iris Miao

The wait is over for antique lovers and collectors with itchy bidding fingers. Beijing's spring auction season, postponed because of the SARS outbreak, kicks off next weekend.

Huachen starts its two-day auction next Friday, followed by China Guardian on Saturday and Sunday.

As to the other two major auction houses, Hanhai has postponed its three day spring auction till the end of August, and will hold a smaller-scale auction, also next weekend, instead. Sungary International is combining its spring and autumn auctions into one, to be held in October. "We are afraid that the market will not recover so soon, there won't be enough buyers in

town in July," a senior consultant from Sungary told *Beijing Today*.

The actual items going under the hammer have not been much affected by the SARS epidemic, as selection had mostly been settled by late April. "During the worst period of SARS, we were in the office compiling the catalogs," Huachen chairman Gan Xuejun told *Beijing Today*, "I'm optimistic about the outcome of the auction."

Usually the spring auctions begin in April and run through until the end of July, with Hanhai Auctions knocking down the final hammer. The autumn season starts in November and finishes, again with Hanhai, around the following January.

The delay of the auctions interrupted the tenth anniversary celebrations of China Guardian, China's first shareholding auction house. The company had planned to raise the hammer for the spring auction on May 18, the day of their establishment. Perhaps the only compensation for missing the birthday celebrations is the possibility the company might again exceed the 10 million yuan mark in total sales volume.

The eight special auctions presented over two days by China Guardian cover ancient, modern and contemporary Chinese painting and calligraphy, Chinese oil painting and sculpture,



Lot 1274, Tang Dynasty Qin, estimate — 2.5 million to 3.5 million, China Guardian.

porcelain and miscellaneous artifacts, ancient books, and coins and stamps. There are over 260 works in the ancient painting and calligraphy section, among which the most rare are *Ping'an Chunxin Tu* by Giuseppe Castiglione (known in Chinese as Lang Shining) (1688-1766) and a hand scroll named *Zhu Xi Zhi Tu* by Shi Tao (1641-1707).

Italian painter Castiglione served as an artist for the Qing imperial court for almost 50 years, yet *Shiqu Baoji*, the official painting inventory of the Qing court, records only 45 of his works. In the past two decades, only two of his works have been auctioned, one fetching over 19 million yuan, the other, 9 million.

In *Ping'an Chunxin Tu*, Castiglione depicts with his distinctive western technique, the father Emperor Yongzheng standing with his son, the future Emperor Qianlong. What is particularly exceptional about the painting is the casual dress the two are wearing, rarely seen in portraits of emperors.

A calligraphy work by Suo Jing (239-303), of the Western Jin Dynasty, who shares equal fame with "Saint"

Wang Xizhi, will light up the Rare Books special auction. There will also be an ancient

Qin, a seven-stringed musical instrument, from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) offered in the Porcelain and Miscellaneous Artifacts section.

Emperors' seals have been a highlight of Huachen's auctions since it was established 18 months ago. In its first auction last spring, Huachen offered a pair of seals belonging to Emperor Kangxi, which sold for over 3.8 million yuan. Last autumn the company presented a seal of Emperor Qianlong, which fetched 2.3 million yuan.

At this auction, another seal belonging to Emperor Kangxi is on offer, the largest in dimension and weight among all his seals, and one of the most frequently used. The carving of both the

body of the seal and the

characters are among the finest of the Kangxi seals. It was used on the horizontal inscribed board on the main gate of the Imperial Summer Resort in Chengde, Hebei Province, with the four characters *Bishu Shanzhuang*.

Two of the highlights in the Modern and Contemporary Chinese Painting and Calligraphy special include two



Lot 765, Qing Dynasty blue-and-white underglazed red vase, no estimate, Huachen Auctions.

revolutionary theme paintings by Li Keran (1907-1989); Shaoshan and Jinggangshan, painted during the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).

Among the other five special auctions, artifacts such as Lot 765, a blue-and-white underglazed red vase with interlocking lotus design from Emperor Yongzheng's reign (1723-1735) of the Qing Dynasty, Lot 1158, a complete set of five silver coins made in Great Britain's Birmingham Mint as trial currencies for Shaanxi Province during Emperor Guangxu's reign (1875-1908) and Lot 281, a reproduction of a Dunhuang fresco by Zhang Daqian (1899-1983) are expected to attract fierce bidding.

At Hanhai's intermediate auction, nearly 2,000 pieces of medium quality and low base price will go under the hammer. The painting and calligraphy section presents 633 works from well-known collectors and galleries. Among the works in the porcelain and miscellaneous artifacts section are 400 jade carvings, from the Warring States Period (475-221 BC) to the Qing Dynasty, offered by a prominent Beijing collector. A selection of 100 of the finest pieces from the Spring Auctions next month will also be on preview simultaneously at the Jingguang Center.

Guardian:

Preview: July 9-11, 9 am - 6 pm
Auction: July 12-13
Venue: Kunlun Hotel

Huachen:

Preview: July 9-10, 9 am - 6 pm
Auction: July 11-12
Venue: Palace Hotel

Hanhai:

Preview: July 8-9, 9 am - 6 pm
Auction: July 10-11
Venue: Jingguang Center



Lot 830, *Ping'an Chunxin Tu* by Giuseppe Castiglione, no estimate, China Guardian.

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Gone, But Not Forgotten

By Yu Shanshan

It's official — the SARS epidemic in Beijing has passed. The Xiaotangshan hospital has closed, the WHO has removed its travel advisory for the city and the dreaded virus is scarcely mentioned in the evening news. After leaving nearly as quickly as it came, two new photography books have been published to make sure we never forget the fear and heroism of this Spring.

Fighting SARS (206 pages, 68 yuan), and *White Scenes: Special Memories Not To Be Erased* (140 pages, 22.5 yuan) were produced by Beijing-based newspapers, *China Daily* and *Beijing Evening News*, and both took very little time to go from conception to production. However, they take different perspectives in memorializing the fight against SARS in the capital and around China, one more realistic and the other overtly romantic.

On June 3, Wang Wenlan, director of photography department of *China Daily*, casually told a colleague there should be a photo book recording the SARS period. Just four days later, his department had collected over 2,000 pictures of life under SARS in major cities around China, taken from their own files and a few from Reuters and the Associated Press. Then, an evaluation panel made up of 17 photographers and experts from local newspapers and journalism organizations chose around 200 works to go into *Fighting SARS*.

In comparison, the cover of *White Scenes* reveals the book is more focused on impressions and feelings generated by the SARS crisis. Under the picture is printed a quote from Bai Wei, editor of *Beijing Evening News* and the driving force behind the book, that reads "SARS may leave some marks on our faces, but we hope it won't brand us on our hearts".

"In the final analysis, SARS probably helped expose many problems in this country, such as public hygiene and morality," said Bai. "Now that SARS has passed, it's time to look back and be introspective."



April 30, a doctor at Beijing Ditan Hospital stands over the body of a deceased SARS patient.

Photo by He Yanguang



May 20, an ambulance races down an alley where a SARS case was reported.

Photo by Kang Taisen



May 11, a new baby is born in a quarantine home. Photo by Wang Haixin

June 4, in Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, two workers play chess on either side of a gate as a result of strict entry-exit measures taken during the SARS period.

Photo by Li Jie

April 22, a young man in Qing Dynasty robes prepares to have an unusual picture taken at the gate to the Forbidden City.

Photo by Wang Wenlan



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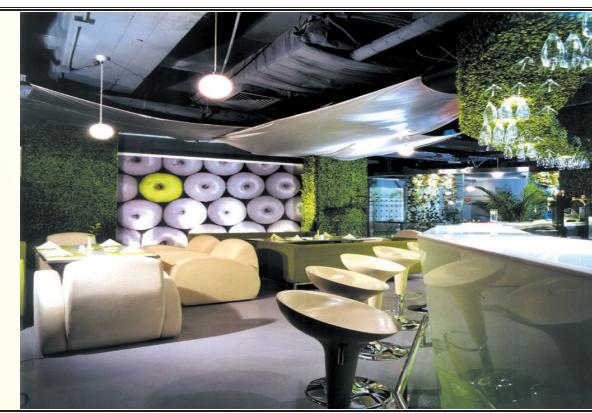
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A Romantic Evening of Song and Dance



Blue Romance

Jiang Xin Recording New Album

By Dong Nan

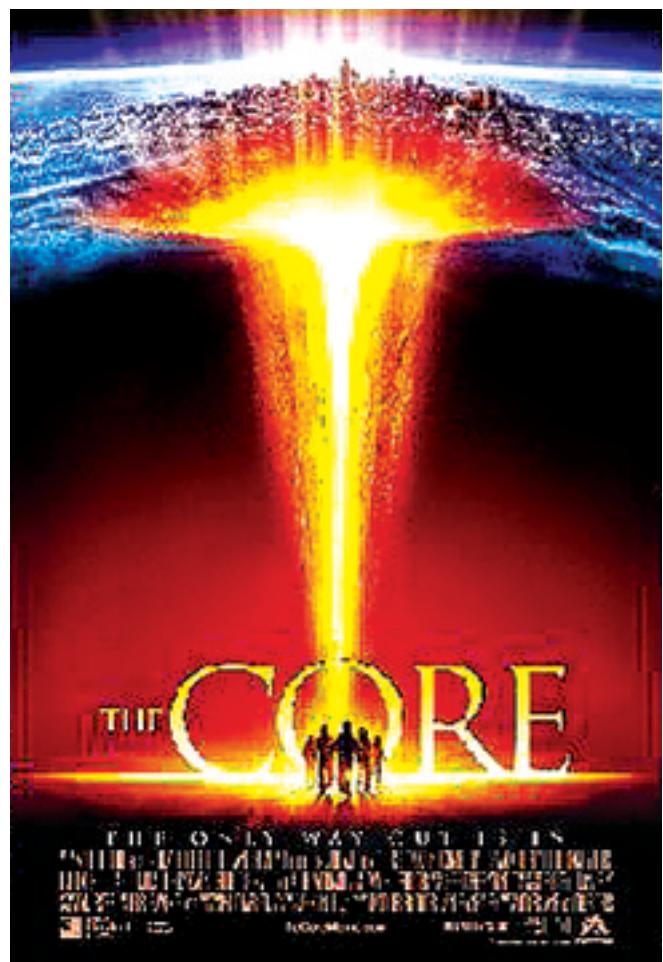
Rock singer Jiang Xin started recording her third album last week. Jiang's 1996 debut *Hua Kai Bu Bai* (*Unfading Flowers*) won critical acclaim for her melodic yet edgy vocal style, but it failed to gain widespread airplay. Her second album *May*, five years later, suffered similar neglect. The new work is Jiang's first album since being signed to Modern Sky.

The album is produced by rock star Xu Wei, who also wrote two of the tracks. There are also songs by He Yong and Chen Jin.

"Xu is very experienced, and he is good at exploring the possibility of singers," Jiang Xin says in a press release. "We are good friends, and he has given me a lot of help with the music."



Jiang Xin



Punk Animation

By Dong Nan

Peng Lei, the lead singer of punk stalwarts New Pants, is taking some time out from rock and roll to publish a book about freeze frame animation.

The book, titled *Freeze Frame Animated Cartoon Studio*, uses three cartoon music videos to illustrate how to design, shoot and process a freeze frame animation. Two of the tracks, *She's Au-*

tomatic and *I Love You*, are by New Pants, the other, *Rainbow*, is by pop star Ye Pei and directed by Peng Lei.

Peng says in a press release he hopes the book will serve as a primer for cartoon fans, "and it may let fans know about what we are doing when we aren't playing music."

The book is due to be released this September.

New Pants were scheduled to participate in the Ocean Music

By Dong Nan

A pageant titled *Wei Lan Se Lang Man* (*Blue Romance*) is being staged tonight under the stars at the Chaoyang Park Tennis Center.

The production, by the China Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble, features song and dance from Asia, Africa and Latin America. Premiering in January at Poly Theatre to celebrate the ensemble's 40th anniversary, it has been since performed more than 100 times throughout China and overseas.

Initial fears of a box office flop evaporated in the wake of the announcement that the World Health Organization had removed Beijing from the list of SARS-infected areas. In the three days following last Tuesday's all-clear, some 300,000 yuan worth of tickets were sold.

The ensemble will give another performance tomorrow.

WORLDWIDE



Arnold Schwarzenegger poses with producers Mario Kassar and Andrew Vajna at the premiere

Hollywood Producers Rise Again with Terminator 3

Everyone knew that HE—"Terminator" Arnold Schwarzenegger—would be back. But Wednesday's debut of *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines* also marks the return of two producers who were once among the hottest teams in Hollywood before splitting in the 1990s.

Movies made by Andrew Vajna and Mario Kassar have raked in \$3 billion at box offices. Their former company, Carolco Pictures, backed the *Rambo* movies starring Sylvester Stallone and big-budget action adventures like *Total Recall* and *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* with Schwarzenegger.



Lucy Liu, Drew Barrymore and Cameron Diaz at the UK premiere

Charlie's Angels Descend on London

Hollywood stars Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu swept into London Tuesday evening for the British premiere of the feisty action comedy sequel *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*.

The glamorous actresses were among a host of stars who wowed onlookers in Leicester Square ahead of the gala screening of the movie.

"We want everyone to enjoy films when they go to them and have entertainment, and education, and escapism and a celebration of life, and that's what we want to do with this film," Barrymore told *Sky News* as the trio arrived.

Broadway Dims Lights to Say Farewell to Hepburn

Broadway dimmed its lights on Tuesday in tribute to stage and screen legend Katharine Hepburn, who died on Sunday at age 96.

The 23 Broadway theaters aimed to darken their marques in a silent tribute to the actress at 8 pm, just before most shows were due to raise

their curtains.

The choreography of the tribute was fumbled as some theaters failed to turn off their lights, but outside the Shubert Theater on 44th Street, crowds of theatergoers were joined by passers-by, who stopped to gaze at the marques.

(Reuters)



Katharine Hepburn's star of the Hollywood Walk of Fame

Elvis' '2nd' to Complete Hits Collection

Having celebrated Elvis Presley's career with the 2003 release of *Elvis 30 #1 Hits*, RCA and BMG has set an October 7 release date for a companion hits collection, *Elvis 2nd to None*.

The compilation will boast a host of additional No. 1 singles alongside other classic Presley tunes and a new remix.

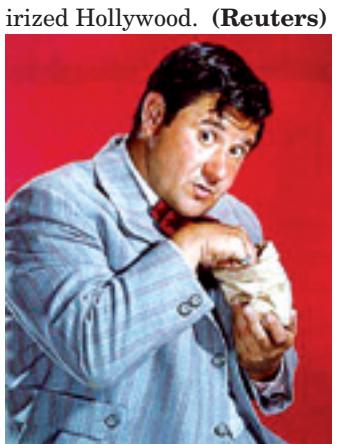
(Reuters)

Comic Actor Buddy Hackett Dies

Veteran comedian Buddy Hackett, a talk-show staple whose career stretched from the early days of television to such features as *The Love Bug* and *The Little Mermaid*, has died in California.

Hackett, who was 78, was found dead on Monday at his Malibu beach house, his son, Sandy, told local Los Angeles media outlets. The cause of death was not immediately known.

Buddy Hackett's feature credits also included the 1963 ensemble comedy *It's A Mad Mad Mad Mad World*, and he recently co-starred in *Action*, a critically acclaimed but short-lived TV series that saturated Hollywood.



Actor Buddy Hackett, shown in this undated publicity photograph

Disaster Hits the Big Screen

By Nebula Dong

A Hollywood sci-fi blockbuster named *The Core* screens in Beijing from this week.

When scientists discover that the Earth's core is about to stop spinning, the countdown begins till the end of the world as we know it. A team of scientists is recruited in a crash project to send a bomb into the center of the Earth to prevent the catastrophe, but, in keeping with the time honored formula of disaster flicks down through the ages, things don't quite go as planned...

With more than a little in common with 1998's *Armageddon* and *Deep Impact*, the plot of *The Core* will be familiar to moviegoers, but the special effects revolve around inner space this time, as a change from outer space.

The film is directed by Jon Amiel, and stars Aaron Eckhart, Bruce Greenwood and Hilary Swank, who won an Academy Award in 1999 for her role as Brandon Teena in the film, *Boys Don't Cry*.

Festival in Taiwan in the middle of this month, but the program has been postponed due to the continuing SARS epidemic there.



New Pants—the animated version

Beijing Youth Daily

房地产版(英文版)

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《北京青年报·房地产版(英文版)》是《北京青年报》每周五推出的房地产及相关的广告专版,其英文版随报发行媒体优势不言而喻。根据房产客户的需要,让公司决策层直接阅读到相关内容,更具针对性,力争使客户的广告效应发挥至最大!

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LeBron James Taken First in NBA Draft

By Hou Mingxin

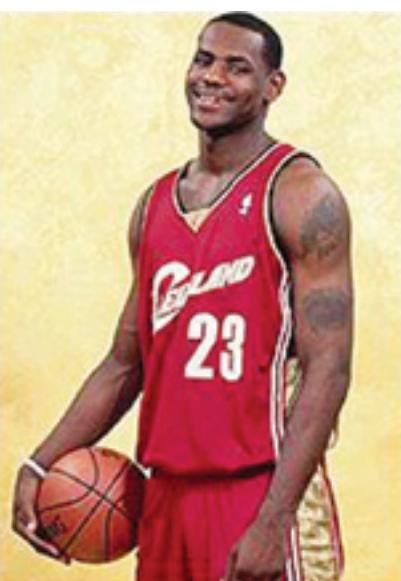
High school wunderkind LeBron James, as expected, was selected No. 1 in the 2003 NBA draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers at Madison Square Garden last Friday.

Xue Yuyang is likely to be the fourth Chinese player to make it to the NBA after he was chosen 57th overall by the Dallas Mavericks.

For James, dreams at hand

James, a two-meter, 109-kilogram (6-foot-8, 240-pound) 18-year-old phenomenon came to the draft dressed to impress in an all-white suit, and sauntered confidently to the stage to shake Commissioner David Stern's hand after the first pick was announced.

"It wasn't like I was wondering where I was going," James said afterwards. "I'm still excited. The dream has finally come and the hard work has paid off."



LeBron James NBA Photo

The most heralded high school player of his generation, James is considered a prime prospect with the skills of a guard, the body of a forward and the potential of a superstar.

Now that potential will be tested, as the fates of several groups ride, at least partly on his shoulders. He is expected to deliver a championship to the Cavaliers, customers to Nike, who signed him to a \$90 million endorsement deal, and charisma to the NBA, who expect James to fill the superstar void left by the retirement of Michael Jordan.

After he was asked why he was so excited to go to a place with a reputation for being less than glamorous, James didn't hesitate.

"You come there this season, you'll see how glamorous it is," James said. "It's going to be lit up like Vegas."

With the No. 2 pick, the Detroit Pistons selected 18-year-old Darko Milicic, a 7-footer from Serbia and Montenegro, and at No. 3, the Denver Nuggets chose 19-year-old former Syracuse University freshman Carmelo Anthony, giving the NBA three potential stars under the age of 20.

The Toronto Raptors, who were listening to trade offers throughout the day, used the No. 4 pick on 6-foot-11 freshman forward Chris Bosh of Georgia Tech.

Top 3 picks in NBA since 1990

| Year | No.1 pick | No.2 pick | No.3 pick |
|------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2003 | LeBron James | Darko Milicic | Carmelo Anthony |
| 2002 | Yao Ming | Jay Williams | Mike Dunleavy |
| 2001 | Kwame Brown | Tyson Chandler | Pau Gasol |
| 2000 | Kenyon Martin | Stromile Swift | Darius Miles |
| 1999 | Elton Brand | Steve Francis | Baron Davis |
| 1998 | Michael Olowokandi | Mike Bibby | Raef LaFrentz |
| 1997 | Tim Duncan | Keith Van Horn | Chauncey Billups |
| 1996 | Allen Iverson | Marcus Camby | Shareef AbdurRahim |
| 1995 | Joe Smith | Antonio McDyess | Jerry Stackhouse |
| 1994 | Glenn Robinson | Jason Kidd | Grant Hill |
| 1993 | Chris Webber | Shawn Bradley | Anfernee Hardaway |
| 1992 | Shaquille O'Neal | Alonzo Mourning | Christian Laettner |
| 1991 | Larry Johnson | Kenny Anderson | Billy Owens |
| 1990 | Derrick Coleman | Gary Payton | Chris Jackson |



The French team point to the sky in tribute to Marc-Vivien Foe, a Cameroon player who died on last Thursday, after winning their Semi-final match against Turkey. Xinhua Photo

France Wins Confederations Cup

By Hou Mingxin

France successfully defended its Confederations Cup title on Sunday when an extra-time golden goal by Thierry Henry gave the hosts a 1-0 win over Cameroon in a match dedicated to the memory of Marc-Vivien Foe.

In an emotional post-match presentation, players of both sides stood together by a large poster of the Cameroon midfielder, who collapsed during last Thursday's semi-final win over Colombia in Lyon and died shortly afterwards.

The Cameroon players all wore green shirts with Foe's name and number 17 stamped on the back while the 52,000 people at the Stade de France chanted Foe's name and applauded.

The match was played in an atmosphere of mutual respect



French team celebrate their victory Xinhua Photo

and there were few scoring chances in the first 90 minutes.

Henry's scrambled winner, the first goal Cameroon conceded in the tournament, also made the outstanding Arsenal striker its top scorer with four goals.

For Cameroon's Indomita-

ble Lions, both the match and the tournament paled in significance to the loss of Foe.

His wife Marie-Louise sat next to FIFA president Sepp Blatter at the game, with Pele and Cameroon's 1990 World Cup striker Roger Milla sitting just behind.

Two BMX Cycling Events OK'd for 2008 Olympics

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced on Monday that its executive board has approved men's and women's BMX cycling events to be put in the program of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.

IOC President Jacques Rogge told Xinhua that the BMX, or bike moto-cross, will be added to the Beijing Games, while the total number of athletes for cycling will remain unchanged.

This requires that two existing cycling events be dropped to make room for BMX, but Rogge said that the International Cycling Federation had yet to decide which to cut.

Despite the change, the total number of events in the Beijing Games should stay the normal 300.

Rogge also said that the IOC is still at the stage of defining the criteria to decide which sports should remain inside the Olympic program.

Currently the IOC, whose program commission has had a couple of meetings with international sport federations, has worked out some basic criteria.

According to Rogge, the basic requirements are that a sport needs to be universally practiced all over the world and truly popular; it needs to accept both men and women events, the sport cannot be costly and should not be dangerous to athletes' health.

He added that the criteria will take a couple of months to be finalized, before being presented to the IOC's executive board in February 2004 and the IOC session during the Athens Olympic Games next year.



Immediately after the Athens Games, the IOC will conduct surveys on the existing 28 summer Olympic sports as well as those 15 sports applying for Olympic membership. The final decision will not be made until the 2005 IOC session in Singapore.

Rogge said that the IOC has tried to be as objective as possible in finalizing the criteria for Olympic sports. (Xinhua)

FIFA Says No to Bigger World Cup

By Hou Mingxin

FIFA's Executive Committee last Saturday turned down a proposal to expand the next two World Cup finals from 32 teams to 36 teams and retracted its promise of giving Oceania an automatic place in the tournament.

At the meeting, the 24-member committee voted 22-1 to reject a proposal from the South American Federation to expand the tournament by four teams.

In order to placate the South Americans, FIFA did agree the same day to return the playoff place they lost when Oceania was awarded an automatic place in a unanimous FIFA vote made last December. At that previous conference, South America lost a qualifying place for the 2006 finals. In other decision, Brazil, as defending champions will not automatically qualify for the finals in 2006.

As a result of the vote, Oceania's playoff place has not changed.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter blamed Australian soccer's administrative problems and New Zealand's poor performance at the Confederations Cup finals in France this month, where the team was handily defeated in all three of its group matches.

Blatter said the decision to maintain 32 finalists for the 2006 and 2010 World Cup tournaments was "the right solution."

Franz Beckenbauer, the president of Germany's 2006 World Cup Organizing Committee, said at the press conference after the vote, "In our view, the current form is optimal. Even though we have the greatest amount of respect for the (South American) proposal, it has become quite clear that there could not be a transparent or fair setup for 36 teams."

The furious Oceania delegate stormed out of the meeting after the vote was taken.

"In my view, the decision is a disgrace and I think it is politically driven to accommodate the powerful South Americans," Oceania Confederation President Basil Scarsella told the Australian Associated Press last Saturday.

Scarsella proceeded to dismiss the reasons given for the move by FIFA, such as those stated by Blatter, as invalid. "These are excuses more than reasons in my mind. The executive committee had overwhelmingly supported them in the past and now they've gone 180 degrees," he added.

Australia has only qualified once for the World Cup in 1974, followed by New Zealand eight years later.

Since then, Oceania has suffered several near misses in World Cup qualifiers including playoff losses to Scotland, Argentina, Iran and Uruguay.

According to a report published in Monday's Titan Sports, as compensation for the decision, Oceania could get the rights to host future Club World Championship tournaments organized by FIFA. The next one will be played in 2005 and no venue has been fixed.

IOC to Help Iraqi Athletes at Athens

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) planned to help Iraqi athletes compete at the 2004 Athens Games, by assisting them with training and preparations, executive director for the Olympic Games Gilbert Felli said on Sunday.

"We need to find out if we have got the athletes... if that's the case we will make sure they can train on the spot or, if that is not possible, bring them to another country to train," he said.

According to IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies, the IOC sent a fact-finding mission to Iraq two weeks ago. "It was a successful mission. A subsequent meeting was held in Kuwait between the IOC and the ruling authorities in Iraq. The next step is (that) a list is being drawn up of the names of top level athletes and the competitions they should attend," she added. (Xinhua)

The Thrill of the Grill

The local government may frown on it, but in the summer, this is no better way to eat than to break out the grill and barbecue meat, vegetables, fish, even tofu, to succulent, smoky perfection. A few restaurants around town offer authentic grilled food, but the best, and most fun way, to get what you want is to do it yourself. Below, we give some suggestions for where to enjoy others' grilling or to get the equipment and ingredients to set up your own barbecue and get things cookin'.

By James Liu
DIY BBQ

A barbecue is a perfect way to get friends and family together, but it can be hard to arrange in the limited space of this



BBQ sauces, 18 yuan and up at Jenny Lou's shop

city. A solution is to head out of town and set up a portable grill to have a cookout while enjoying the mountains, rivers and fresh air. Of course, success depends on being properly equipped. Fortunately, Carrefour and Jennie Lou's stores around town have all the things a grill master needs.

Some camping equipment stores around town sell grills, though they tend to be on the small side. For a wider selection, including more substantial sets, try Carrefour. The stores also offer other needed equipment such as skewers, tongs, grill brushes and baskets.

Recipe:
Five-spice Beef

Tenderloin

Beef tenderloin is meltingly tender, rich and looks beautiful, and in Beijing is amazingly affordable, at around 10-15 yuan per *jin*, or pound. This recipe calls for a just simple rub, or spice mixture, to flavor the outside, allowing the natural flavor to come through. (Serves 8)

1 tablespoon Chinese five spice powder

1 teaspoon ground ginger

1 teaspoon garlic powder (optional)

4 teaspoons salt

1 whole beef tenderloin, around 4 *jin* (pounds)

Mix the spices together to make the rub, adding ingredients to your liking. To prepare the beef, trim off any large pieces of fat and remove the silverskin, the thin strip of sinew that covers one side. Sprinkle rub evenly over meat, then lightly massage in with your fingers.

Heat the grill to medium high. Grill the meat, turning to sear all sides. To get medium-rare, cook for four to six minutes per side, around 30 minutes total. When done, remove from the grill and let the meat sit for five minutes. This will let the juices flow back into the meat. Using a sharp knife, cut into thin pieces and serve with sauce, or without.

Brined Chicken Breasts

On the grill, chicken breasts are a challenge, as they can dry out and end up stringy



Charcoal, eight pounds, 91 yuan

and flavorless. This recipe calls for brining the breasts, a process that uses osmosis to literally force liquid into the meat. (Serves four)

1/4 cup salt
1/4 cup packed brown sugar
20 whole peppercorns
2 bay leaves
1 cup hot water plus 3 cups cold water
1 lemon, thinly sliced
1 small onion, thinly sliced
2 whole boneless,

skinless chicken breasts or 4 half breasts
Put salt, sugar, peppercorns and bay leaves in a bowl, then add the cup hot water and stir vigorously until salt and sugar is dissolved. Stir in cold water and let brine stand until room temperature. Add onion and lemon, and soak breasts in the brine either in a large bowl or sealable plastic bags for two

hours, refrigerated. Be sure not to brine the chicken for too long, or it will be rubbery.

Near the end of the brining process, light the coals and heat the grill. When grill is ready, cook the chicken over high heat. They should take four to six minutes per side. Check if they are done by giving them a poke - if the breasts are firm, they are ready.

Tips for Better Barbecuing
By Wesley Lei

While mastering grilling technique takes years of practice, here are some basic pointers to make even one's first barbecue a success.

Maintain your grill - before cooking, scour the grate with a wire brush to remove burnt-on grunge. Preheat - Arrange coals in a pyramid at the bottom of the grill. Add approximately two ounces of lighter fluid and carefully light with a match. Charcoal should be ready in about 20 minutes, with 70 percent covered with ash and displaying a slight red glow. To estimate the temperature, hold your hand, palm side down, about 6 inches above the coals.

* two seconds - it's hot, about



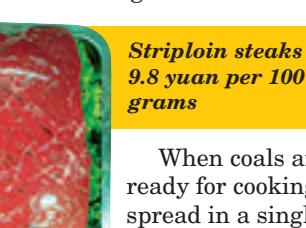
Chicken wings at 3 yuan per 100 grams

375 degrees F or more

* three seconds - it's medium hot, about 350 to 375 degrees F

* four seconds - it's medium, about 300 to 350 degrees F

* five seconds - it's low, about 200 to 300 degrees F



Striploin steaks at 9.8 yuan per 100 grams

When coals are ready for cooking, spread in a single layer or bank them.

Before cooking, oil the grate using a cooking spray such as Pam brand spray, or wipe it with a paper towel dipped in oil using tongs. Put the grate in place over the coals for a few minutes before cooking to get professional-looking grill marks.

Avoid fire flare-ups - use lean meats and trim away visible fat. Another effective method is to have a cool spot on

the grill by leaving one side free of coals. In the case of flare-ups, simply transfer the material to the cool area.

Putting out the fire - Place the cover on the grill, close the vents and allow the coals to burn out.

Good Sites to Grill:
Kangxi Grasslands

This pastureland 80 kilometers from the city is an ideal place for a cookout. Take Bus 919 (look out for the "zhi" bus) at Deshengmen or drive along the Badaling Highway and follow the signs to the west. Tel: 6913 1603, 6913 1601 (tourist service center)



Kettle grill, 238 yuan

Inspired Vietnamese at Muse

the food.

Manager Blane Kieng personally insures the quality his kitchen's work. "Everything on the table has to pass me first," he said. Kieng clearly knows his Vietnamese, as Muse's dishes outdo those of its competitors and even do so at better prices.

Among the standard dishes upon which Vietnamese restaurants can be measured are *pho*, or beef soup noodles, and spring rolls. Muse scores on both. The *pho* comes in

a large bowl of tasty, complex broth both sweet and salty, the noodles taste fresh, the beef is good quality, and all the right garnishes are there, basil, mint, lime and chili and hoisin sauces. The spring rolls come in two varieties, the Hue spring rolls (12 yuan) which are fried with a crisp skin and nice garlicky flavor, and Saigon crevette rolls (18 yuan), fresh, thick with mint, lettuce, rice vermicelli, carrot and pork and addictively tasty.

One of the most popular items on the current menu is crispy sautéed fish (38 yuan), a whole fish cooked incredibly well, the skin delicately crisp with a light oil flavor, while the flesh is tender and rich with hints of chili peppers and chives. Another good choice is



Stuffed chicken wings, 18 yuan

Photos by Wang Yong / Cui Hao



Train lights, 32 yuan

the Vietnamese grilled beef (32 yuan), chunks of buttery meat in a simple soy-based sauce.

Even a simple plate of snow-peas and mushrooms is stir-fried just right, the beans crunchy and the mushrooms meaty, overall dish winning in its simplicity.

A more complex taste comes out in the sour shrimp soup, beautifully presented with a pleasant sour bite redolent of garlic.

Desert deserves a chance, with a range of fruit ices and other treats, such as Indochine sweet rice (12 yuan), four little squares of soft, milky rice that taste milky and not too sweet, topped with toasted sesame.

Muse is a great place for dinner or lunch, with its sandwich offerings, as well as entrees, such as grilled quail and fried fish, that come with rice and soup of the day and none of which cost more than 28 yuan. Kieng said the finishing touches are being put on a garden area, sure to be an extra feather in the cap of a restaurant that is already truly outstanding among the nearly overcrowded Vietnamese scene.

Add: Next to west gate of Chaoyang Park, No. 1 Agricultural Convention Center South Road, Chaoyang Open: 11 am - 11 pm Tel: 6586 3188 Average Cost: 40 yuan per person and up



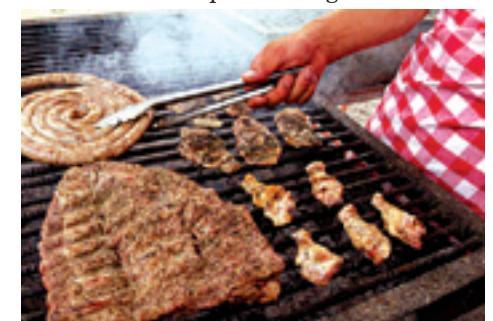
One time disposable stove at 15.9 yuan

Qinglong Xia
(Black dragon valley)

About two hours out of town, this beautiful place offers sand, rivers and towering mountains, and can be reached on buses 916 or 936 from Dongzhimen long distance station.

Baicaopan

Located to southwest of downtown, Baicaopan is known for its rich pastures and mountain scenery. Take Bus 917 at Tianqiao to Fangshan.



Agrilandia Italian Farm

This unusual restaurant is a stone house in a rustic Italian-style farm. Agrilandia opened in spring of 2000 and has drawn a growing following with its beautiful environs and authentic Italian food.

Experienced chef Claudio Bonfatti and his Chinese wife manage the kitchen and the entire farm, raising many ingredients themselves. The open surroundings are a perfect spot for grilling, and Agrilandia abides. Customers have their choices of ribs, chicken wings and sausages grilled on the spot.

What makes Agrilandia's grilled food stand out is the use of the freshest ingredients, such as fowl raised on the farm, and imported Italian spices. Here meat is flavored with salt, ground coriander and red wine or balsamic vinegar. A must-try is the flavorful, satisfying homemade sausage.

To compliment the grilled offerings, there is also a wide range of classic Italian dishes, including superb pizza that is light and crispy. All food is offered in set meals that go for 150 or 100 yuan per person, the former more expensive because it includes a half bottle of wine and coffee.

Getting there is pretty easy, either by bus 915 (Route two) from Dongzhimen or by driving on Jingshu Road to the

Kulishu roundabout, then taking a right, driving 3.5 kilometers, then turning right again and going another 1.5 kilometers. Agrilandia is on the east side of the road.

Add: South Shilipu, Nanfaxin, Shunyi Open: 8 am - 10 pm Tel: 6947 3133

Average cost: 100 yuan per person

Language Exchange

Cherry is a young policeman, who graduated from China Public Security University. He wants to find a native English or French speaker for language exchange.

Email: joyfulmoon@sina.com
or cherryue@hotmail.com

During the summer holidays, Xiao Yun, a female middle school student, wants to find a native English speaker for language exchange.

Tel: 13901113969

Jams

Lucky Band

Tonight Second-hand Rose (Ershou Meigui) will warm the corner. Tomorrow Xie Tianxiao and Cold-blooded animals (Lengxue Dongwu) will be on stage.

Where: Get Lucky, 500 meters east of the south gate of University of International Business and Economics, Chaoyang When: July 4-5, 9:30 pm Admission: 40 yuan Tel: 6429 9109

Spinning Tunes

The crew of Elektrobeat DJs Usami will spin breaks, house and techno.

Where: the Club When: July 6, 10 pm Tel: 6417 7791

Life on a String (Bianzou Bianchang)

Directed by Chen Kaige, starring Huang Lei, Xu Qing. An old blind man wanders through the Gobi Desert playing the Erhu and hoping, as once was promised to him, that his music will restore his sight. Traveling with a blind boy as servant and apprentice, the old man is called "Saint" by those who meet him. Through his music, he can stop wars and create rivers of pleasure in the harsh environments of the Gobi. But he is haunted by his lack of sight, and frustration threatens to destroy him, and turn his apprentice into a common beggar. Chinese with English subtitles.

Where: Cherry Lane at Fountain Terrace, Hilton Hotel, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu When: July 4-5, 8:30 pm Admission: 50 yuan, includes a beer/non-alcoholic drink Tel: 6430 1398

Beautiful Task

Directed by Ma Weihao, starring Yang Qianhua, Wu Yanzhu. A comedy set in Hong Kong about a beautiful police-woman who meets with a series of unexpected events. In Chinese.

Exhibitions

Architectural Design Exhibition

Architectural design of the National Swimming Center at Beijing Olympic Park will be exhibited. The public are invited to vote to select the most popular design.

Where: Beijing International Conference Center When: July 4-6, 9 am - 4 pm

Admission: free Tel: 8497 3060

Bao Jingzhou Calligraphy Exhibition

Featuring hundreds of calligraphy works by Bao Jingzhou, this exhibition is organized by the Beijing Post Calligraphy Association.

Where: Chaoyang Cultural Palace When: July 5, 8 am - 6 pm Admission: free Tel: 8599 4224

Oil Paintings by Yangchun Baixue

Yangcun Baixue began to paint at the age of one. From the age of two, she won many prizes in competitions. Now seven years old, she is not only an accomplished oil painter, she is also skilled in printmaking, sketching, and paper-cutting.

Where: Qin Gallery, Huaweili Enjoy Paradise 1-1E (north of Beijing Curio City) Chaoyang When: till July 31, 9:30 am - 7 pm

Admission: free Tel: 8779 046

Made in Beijing

Works by Yang Mian, reflecting Chinese cultural standards and standards for buildings in an ideal residential zone.

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Dongdajie, Chongwenmen When: July 5-23, 10 am - 5 pm

Admission: free Tel: 6525 1005

'Explore and Contain Art'

Paintings by Bo Yun and Zhang Jianbo.
Bo Yun will exhibit his mixed media works with various kinds of abstract and concrete symbols and elements to express an idea of theory. Zhang Jianbo's paintings touch the peaceful and creative world he lives in.

Where: Creation Gallery, Ritan Donglu, Chaoyang

When: July 5-13, 10 am - 7 pm

Admission: free Tel: 8561 7570



Movies

Where: Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng (UME International Cineplex), 44 Shuangyushu Kexueyuan, Haidian When: till July 4 Admission: 30 yuan Tel: 6261 2851

Passing of the Mountain God (Zuihou Shanshen), Ying and White (Ying Yu Bai)

Receiving the highest honor from the Asia Radio and TV Federation, *Passing of the Mountain God*, a 50-minute documentary, about a tribe of the Olunchun Minority, the smallest minority among the 56 nationalities in China. The documentary reveals the struggle to preserve their customs and lifestyle, and their fate in the tumultuous process of China's modernization.

Ying and White describes a story of a Sichuan circus girl and her giant panda and the development of their special relationship during the decades they lived together in seclusion in a single room. The film will be screened in English.

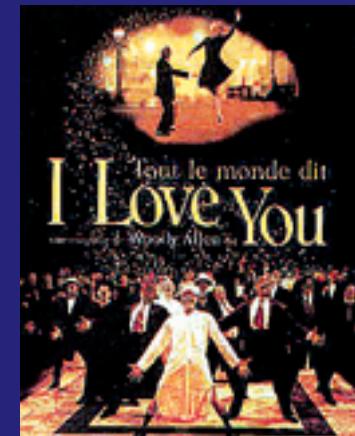
Where: Lee's Antique Carpets, Liangmaqiao Lu, near the

21st Century Hotel When: July 5, 7-9 pm Admission: adults 40 yuan, students 20 yuan Tel: 8462 2081

Everyone Says I Love You

Directed by Woody Allen, starring Natasha Lyonne, Julia Roberts, Goldie Hawn, Alan Alda. Featuring a soundtrack filled with old standards such as Just You, Just Me and My Baby Just Cares for Me, this musical comedy concerns a polite and comfortably well-off group of people and their romantic difficulties. English with Chinese subtitles.

Where: Space for Imagination, 5 Xiwangzhuang Haidian When: July 10, 7 pm Admission: free Tel: 6279 1280



Activities



City Seaview

The site of summer parties like Tsunami nights and last year's July 4th celebration is re-opening. Beijing's only "beach" complete with "sea", sand, and waterslides.

Where: City Seaview, 10 minutes from the Lido Hotel, on the old airport road Open: 9 am - 9 pm Admission: 60 yuan Tel: 8431 0885

Western Hills and Temple of Azure Clouds (Biyunsi)

Chinese Culture Club is organizing a trip to the Temple of Azure Clouds, built during the Yuan Dynasty, which was a favorite retreat for emperors and their concubines. Around the beginning of this century, the temple was the original burial place of Sun Yat-sen. English commentary provided.

Where: meet at the door of Azure Clouds When: July 6, 11 am - 4 pm Admission: 50 yuan Tel: 13051299897

Music

Beethoven

Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 will be performed by the China Philharmonic Orchestra.

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall When: July 6, 7 pm Tel: 6559 8285

Auction

Pacific Auctions

2003 Pacific Spring Auctions. This auction includes porcelain, jade carving, classical Chinese furniture, modern and contemporary Chinese paintings and calligraphy. Preview from July 6-8, 9 am - 8 pm.

Where: Level 18, Building A 17, King Wing Hotel, Dongsanhuan Nanlu, Chaoyang When: July 9, 9:30-12 am, 1:30-6 pm Tel: 6765 6093

Performance

Blue Romance

China Oriental Song and Dance Ensemble will give an outdoor concert. The program includes traditional Chinese folk singing and dancing, as well as works from other countries. (See page 12)

Where: Tennis Center, Chaoyang Park When: July 4-5, 8-10 pm Admission: 80-500 yuan Tel: 13910977159

Sports

Chess

Dragon International Chess Club offers an English speaking professional coach with around 10 years of teaching experience, and players with professional experience to compete with. Children (four years and above) with parents, and beginners are welcome.

Where: Dragon International Chess Club Admission: 60 yuan Tel: 6952 5274

The Rolling Hills and the Empty Lanes

This walk can be done by all, with lots to see and no danger. Start from a lane in a small village nestled in the valley, walk up over the hills to Stonewall Village, then from the open lane follow the secret way to get on a clear path into the pinewoods. The hills are rolling rather than craggy and steep. Walking along the ridge, one can take in the country view that stretches for miles.

Where: Miyun, north of Beijing When: July 6, meet 8 am outside Starbucks, return 5 pm How much: adults 150 yuan, children 100 yuan Tel: 13701003694 Email: bjhikers@yahoo.co.uk

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2522

By Guo Yuandan

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Photo by Hu Jinxi

Tennis Courts

By Huang Lisha

Courts in Hotels

Great Wall Sheraton Hotel

Two synthetic courts (outdoor)
Where: Dongsanhuan Beilu
Cost: 70 yuan per hour weekdays,
90 yuan per hour weekends
Open: 6 am-10 pm
Tel: 6590 5566

SAS Royal Hotel

One synthetic court (outdoor).
Membership required.
Where: Beisanhuan Donglu
Cost: 600 yuan /30 hours
Open: 12 am-9 pm
Tel: 6466 3388

Kempinski Hotel

One hard court (outdoor)
Where: 50 Liangmaqiao Lu
Cost: 60 yuan per hour for guests,
200 yuan per hour for others
Open: 7 am-9 pm
Tel: 6465 3388

Kunlun Hotel

One synthetic court (outdoor)
Where: 2 Xinyuan Nanlu
Cost: 72 yuan per hour
Open: 6:30 am-11 pm
Tel: 6590 3388

Hilton Hotel

One synthetic court (outdoor)
Where: Dongsanhuan Beilu
Cost: 200 yuan per session (no
time restriction)
Open: 7 am-9 pm
Tel: 6466 2288

21st Century Hotel

Six synthetic courts (outdoor)
Where: 40 Liangmaqiao Lu
Cost: weekdays 35 yuan per hour
before 3 pm, 70 yuan per hour after
3 pm, weekends 80 yuan per hour
Open: 8 am-7 pm
Tel: 6466 3311

Landmark Towers

One hard court (outdoor)
Where: 8 Dongsanhuai Beilu
Cost: 75 yuan per hour
Open: 6:30 am-7 pm
Tel: 6590 6688

China World Hotel

Three synthetic courts (indoor).
Members only.
Where: 1 Jianguomen Waidajie,
Cost: 9,500 yuan for one year
membership
Open: 7 am-9 pm
Tel: 6505 2266

Scitech Hotel

One hard court (outdoor)
Where: 22 Jianguomen Waidajie,
Cost: 240 yuan per hour 11 am-5
pm, 300 yuan per hour 5 pm-9 pm
Open: 11 am-9 pm
Tel: 6512 2288

New Otani Changfugong Hotel

One synthetic court (outdoor)
Where: Jia 26 Jianguomenwai
Dajie
Cost: 70 yuan per hour
Open: 7 am-10:30 pm
Tel: 6512 5555

Tianlun Dynasty Hotel

One synthetic court (outdoor)
Where: 50 Wangfujing Dajie
Cost: 100 yuan per hour 10 am-6
pm, 120 yuan per hour 6 pm-10 pm
Open: 10 am-10 pm
Tel: 6513 8888

Friendship Hotel

Two synthetic courts (outdoor)
Where: 3 Zhongguancun Nandajie
Cost: 60 yuan per hour weekdays,
80 yuan per hour weekends
Open: 10 am-10 pm
Tel: 6849 8888

Shangri-La Hotel

Two synthetic courts (outdoor)
Where: 29 Zizhuyuan Lu
Cost: 150 yuan/hour
Open: 9 am-11 pm
Tel: 6841 2211

New Century Hotel

Two synthetic courts (indoor)
Where: 6 Shoudu Tiayuguan Nanlu
Cost: weekdays 8 am-4 pm, 200
yuan per hour; 4 pm-11 pm 280
yuan per hour; weekends and hol-
idays 280 yuan per hour
Open: 8 am-11 pm
Tel: 6849 2001

Courts in Sports Centers

International Olympic Sports Center

Eight synthetic courts (outdoor)
Where: 1 Yayuncun Anding Lu
Cost: 40 yuan per hour weekdays,
50 yuan per hour weekends
Open: 8 am-12 pm
Tel: 6491 2233 ext 218

Gongti Yutai Bowling and Tennis Center

Two hard courts (indoor)
Where: 8 Gongti Xilu
Cost: 260 yuan per hour
Open: 8 am-10 pm
Tel: 6552 2688

Haidian Gymnasium

Six synthetic courts (indoor)
Where: 12 Yiheyuan Lu
Cost: 30 yuan per hour
Open: 7 am-11 pm
Tel: 6253 5314

Capital Gymnasium

Six synthetic courts (indoor)
Where: 54 Baishiqiao Lu
Cost: 150 yuan/hour
Open: 9 am-10 pm

Tel: 6831 7646

Beijing Gymnasium

Two synthetic courts (indoor)
Where: 4 Tiayuguan Lu, Chongwen
Cost: weekdays 8 am-5 pm 120
yuan per hour, 5 pm-8 pm 150
yuan per hour; weekends 150
yuan per hour

Tel: 6711 7726

Fengtai Sports Center

Three courts (outdoor)
Where: 67 Fengtai Beilu
Cost: 30 yuan per hour weekdays,
40 yuan per hour weekends and
holidays
Open: 8 am-8 pm
Tel: 6381 4422

Yifangyuan Sports Health Center

Six synthetic courts (indoor)
Where: Jia 12 Wanshouisi
Cost: 80 yuan per hour 8 am-2
pm, 180 yuan per hour 2 pm-5
pm, 220 yuan 5 pm-11 pm
Open: 8 am-11 pm
Tel: 6768 8006

Others

Tennis Club

Two synthetic courts (indoor).
Members only.
Where: 1A Nongzhan Nanlu
Cost: 8,500 yuan for one year
membership, 130 yuan per hour
Open: 8 am-12 pm
Tel: 6508 9108

Sino-Japan Youth Exchange

Six synthetic courts (outdoor)
Where: 40 Liangmaqiao Lu
Cost: 60 yuan per hour
Open: 9 am-10 pm
Tel: 6466 3311

Jingmin Plaza

One synthetic court (indoor)
Where: 10 Huayanli
Cost: 140 yuan per hour 8 am-2 pm,
160 yuan per hour 2 pm-10 pm
Open: 8 am-10 pm
Tel: 6202 0011

Beijing Recreation Center

Two synthetic courts (indoor)
Where: 5-209 Building K Yayuncun
(Asian Games Village)
Cost: 150 yuan per hour
Open: 9 am-11 pm
Tel: 64924126

Beijing Tianli Tennis Training Center

Eight synthetic courts and two
grass courts (outdoor)
Where: 1, Chaoyanggongyuan
Nanlu
Cost: 80 yuan per hour
Open: 7 am - 11 pm
Tel: 6591 8383

Saddle Up!

By Helen Hong

A favorite pastime in the west for aristocrats and wannabes for over two centuries, horse riding is gaining popularity in China.

There are currently more than 30 equestrian clubs in Beijing, with over 4,000 members, and more than 1,000 horses. In many of these clubs, there are skilled professionals providing instruction.

In an effort to further promote the sport, Beijing Equestrian Sports Association and Zhongxing Equestrian Club are jointly offering free riding courses, which have proven so popular that they are already booked out until the end of August.

Zhongxing club member Ma Yingge has been riding her horse, Yingtao Xiaowanzi, for four years. "She's not the most beautiful horse, but her quiet and shy character attracted me. I like her so much. Riding is far more than just a sport for me now."

Li Wei, a rider with eight years' experience says, "Riding is an overall sport which can shape one's buttocks, belly and waist. And the outdoor exercise is good for the heart and lungs."

On the issue of safety, Cheng Wenzeng, manager of Zhongxing, told *Beijing Today*, "Not all equestrian clubs offer insurance, because insurance companies will not deal with them

if they have too few members. Of course, the best way is to learn how to protect oneself. Good clubs will help people with all the details about riding to ensure their safety."

Warning signs

The key to horse riding safety is learning to read the mood of the horse from its body language. Following are a few tips on what to look out for before you attempt to ride off into the sunset.

Eyes: Wide open eyes generally mean the horse is irritated. Exposed whites means it is nervous or scared. Closed eyes means it is probably asleep, or wants to be.

Nose: Snorting means it is impatient or annoyed about something. Flared nostrils indicate that it is excited.

Mouth: Chewing on nothing expresses obedience. Rolling its upper lip indicates that it is extremely agitated.

Ears: Standing up means it is on the alert, while laid back against the top of the head means get out of the way – it is about to attack.

Limbs: Stamping or kicking the ground shows vexation. Jumping and rearing on its hind legs means it is racing to go.

Tail: Holding its tail high means it is high spirited, tucking it between its legs means it is afraid. Flicking it rapidly back and forth means it is dissatisfied with the current sit-

uation, irritated by flies, or both.

Once you have assured yourself that the horse means you no harm, you should choose the correct angle to approach. Usually this means standing in front and to the left of the horse's head, approaching from a 45 degree angle until you are parallel with its left shoulder. This is also where you should end up when you dismount.

In this position, you are unlikely to be kicked or bitten. Just be careful not to let it stand on your toe. If you and the horse are familiar with each other, on the other hand, you can be a little more relaxed in your approach.

Riding gear

Helmet, boots, waistcoat and breeches are the most important elements of a rider's outfit. They should be durable, and loose enough not to restrict movement, and the fabric should be such that it provides ventilation in hot weather, while being wind and water proof.

Most clubs do not provide personal equipment, usually only the saddle, bridle, helmet and chaps are available for hire.

Saddlery stores are still relatively rare in Beijing. Zhongxing manager Cheng Wenzeng recommends Wanjiangxiang Saddler's Shop, at A26, Nansanhuan Xilu, Fengtai, Tel: 6758 2494.



Cloisonne Wine Vessel with Bird Design
Photos Provided by China National Arts and Crafts Museum

MUSEUM WATCH

China National Arts and Crafts Museum

dark green jadeite.

Incense Burner is decorated with traditional dragon, white tiger, red sparrow and tortoise designs.

In the earthenware section are representative examples of pottery from Jingdezhen in Jiangxi, Liling in Hunan, Dehua in Fujian, Shiwan in Guangdong, and Yixing in Jiangsu.

As for the silk section, the four main schools of embroidery are represented, namely Suxiu from Jiangsu, Xiangxiu from Hunan, Yuexiu from Guangdong, and Shuxiu from Sichuan.

There are also representative forms of Chinese folk art, including painted clay figurines, interior-painted bottles, gourd carvings and decorative fans.

Where: Level 5, Baisheng Market, 101

Fuxingmeinei Dajie, Xicheng

Open: 9 am - 4 pm (except Monday) Admission: 8 yuan Tel: 6605 3426



Goddess of Mercy on Lion, Lazurite

By Guo Yuandan

China National Arts and Crafts Museum, founded in 1989, boasts a collection of thousands of artifacts made since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Exhibits include jade ware, stone and wood sculpture, earthenware, lacquer ware, metal ware, embroidery, and ethnic folk art.

The most attractive pieces in the jade collection include four large jadeite carvings, including Marvelous Spectacle at Mount Tai (岱岳奇观), Nine Dragons Playing in the Sea (四海龙欢), Flower Basket (群芳揽胜) and Incense Burner (含香聚瑞).

Marvelous Spectacle at Mount Tai shows the peak and 18 scenic spots on the front, with an evening scene on the back.

Nine Dragons Playing in the Sea carved from a piece of emerald, red and milk white jadeite, features nine dragons, the sea and clouds. Flower Basket is carved from a triangular piece of